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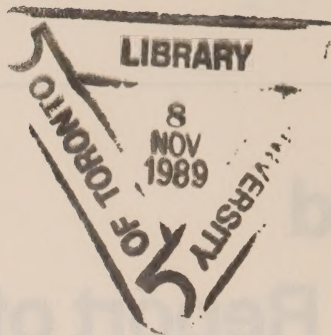
Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 34th Parliament
Thursday, February 9, 1989



Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, February 9, 1989

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

Ms. Bryden: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: It appears that the mover of the motion for ballot item 61 is not here. Should we adjourn until he arrives? Can we adjust the time or will it be taken out of the hour?

Mr. Speaker: It makes it a little difficult. I do not think we should adjourn. I know there are two items and I do not think it really would be fair to put the second item now, because there may be members who wish to participate between 11 and 12 and, therefore, they would not be here.

We could get unanimous consent to have someone else place the motion for the member for Brampton South (Mr. Callahan), if there are any other members who were going to speak on it. Would there be unanimous agreement to have the member for Oxford (Mr. Tatham) move the motion?

Agreed to.

Mr. Bossy: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I have information that the member for Brampton South will be here any second.

Mr. Speaker: I think it would be in order to proceed. We have unanimous agreement.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I wonder if the three parties have speakers on the second resolution, because maybe the member for Brampton South will not be here even when his turn does come.

Mr. Speaker: I understand he will be here very shortly, so I think, to keep the business in an orderly fashion, I will recognize the member for Oxford.

RETIREE VOLUNTEERS

Mr. Tatham moved, on behalf of Mr. Callahan, resolution 61:

That, in the opinion of this House, the minister responsible for senior citizens' affairs should establish an internship program for those retired persons who wish to volunteer their acquired skills and knowledge for use in any area of government where such expertise may be needed

and to accomplish such purpose a directory of such retirees and their skills should be set up and maintained through the ministry.

Mr. Speaker: I hope it is agreeable to the member if we allow him to speak for up to 10 minutes and reserve 20 minutes for the member for Brampton South at the end.

Mr. Tatham: It is a pleasure for me this morning to rise and speak in support of private member's motion 61.

First of all, what did Methuselah do for 904 years? Here is a poem written by Barbara Purcell called Modern Grannies.

I have a little grannie, she is really very old,
but also unconventional in a most unusual
mould.

She doesn't wear her spectacles perched upon
her nose,
she wears contact lenses, and varnishes her
toes.

Unlike some other grannies, who are home
before it's dark,
she is dressed up in a track suit jig-jogging
in the park.

And when I wish she'd sometimes stay, and
tuck me up in bed,
she is off to study yoga, and standing on her
head.

Some grannies sit in rocking chairs and
crochet shawls, indoors,
but my grannie jumps upon a horse, and
rides across the moors.

She goes on day trips with her gang of
over-sixties club,
they racket round the countryside and end
up in a pub.

And on the homeward journey, like a flock of
singing birds,
they harmonize old favourites, with very
naughty words.

I love my little grannie, I think she's really
great,
if that's what growing old is like, well I
simply cannot wait.

Checking with the Woodstock Senior Citizens Club, they number approximately 800 and they serve another 200 people, some of whom are shut-ins, have Alzheimer's disease and are unable to be in regular attendance at the centre.

Here are some of the events one can achieve: a ski and chili dance, outdoor breakfasts, shuffleboard, bowling, oil painting, driver refresher courses.

The purpose of the club is to extend to the senior citizens an opportunity to participate in interesting and worthwhile activities that promote physical, social and psychological well-being and to show fellowship and encouragement for the betterment of all. The majority of the members range in age from 64 to 74. The oldest regular attendee is 99 years old. She comes out to quilt and play euchre. Recently my wife received a call from Meals on Wheels and the organizer was Mrs. Annie Forbes. Annie Forbes will be 94 years of age next Wednesday.

Life goes on after 65. All the experiences people have gone through over the years have been sorted out and distilled. It seems to me we have a grand opportunity to tune in to all that information and use it for the benefit of our society. Talking to the administrator of Woodingford Lodge, which is our senior citizens' home in Oxford, he says that the average age of the people admitted in this past year is 84.9. Some people are able to take early retirement before 60 years of age. What a talent bank to have available for our country.

Let me tell you about Tom Williams. We had been invited to his birthday party out at the Sweaburg United Church. We arrived at about two o'clock, but no Tom. Tom arrived 15 minutes later and apologized for being late, but said: "You know, I have had a great birthday present. The fellows came along after church, picked me up and we went flying Harvards in formation. Of course, I was just a passenger."

Tom was celebrating his 95th birthday. Tom flew for the Royal Flying Corps in the First World War, receiving his wings at 31 years of age. He transferred from the cavalry to the air force and the maximum age for pilots at that time was 28. The transfer officer asked him, "How old are you, corporal?" "I am 28, sir." "And how many days?"

After the war, Tom was a bush pilot up in the Red Lake district. Any of the residents who lived close to the Sweaburg district back in the 1930s could watch Tom Williams's beacon as it swept the sky, a marker beacon for any lonely pilot flying in the area.

1010

One Sunday afternoon at the Fraser farm, on the 10th line of East Zorra, Tom was taking passengers up for a short flight and a pasture landing. I watched the proceedings as a young

lad. I was quite aware of Captain Tom Williams. When the Second World War began, Tom went to work for Fleet Aircraft in Fort Erie as chief test pilot. He loved flying. After the war, he continued to fly and tested parachutes. Time moved on and at age 84, Tom said he found a new way to trim an orchard: he had a slight mishap when landing at his farm. However, after minor repairs, he kept on flying.

Driving home with him one night after he opened the Woodstock fair in August 1969—we called him Oxford's astronaut—he said, "You know, Charlie, I was around before man flew, and now he has gone to the moon."

Ask Bill McVean of CFRB or Carl Millard of Millard Airways if they remember Tom Williams. Tom Williams, like George Burns, grew older but never old. Bruce West of the Globe and Mail said he was one of the youngest men he knew. With his love of flying, of innovating new ideas, he was an inspiration to generations of young flyers.

Tom finally sold his Fleet 21 in 1973 and then gave up solo flying at age 88. At that time, he was Canada's oldest active pilot. He wrote letters to the editor, he wrote poetry, he took part in the annual Woodstock air show. He was guest of honour at various activities involving flying throughout Canada.

After his wife died, he lived by himself, and one snowy day when he tried to put chains on his car to get up the hill, he fell and crushed some bones, at almost 90 years of age. He went into the hospital, came out with a walker, then with a cane and then active again. A few months before his 100th birthday, Tom died.

What a volunteer. What an amount of skill, knowledge and common sense. I would put Tom on the directory. Tom's funeral service took place at Sweaburg United Church, and one of the two ministers officiating was his friend Canon John Davies. Canon Davies had just achieved his 100th birthday.

At one of John Davies's birthday parties, held in Old St. Paul's Church, Canon John mentioned that in the audience he saw his old friend Tom Williams and that from time to time he gave Tom advice. Tom's rejoinder was, "And I never take it."

In 1897, John Davies, 12 years of age, started to work in a colliery office in England. He was going to go into engineering, but he changed his mind. He came to Canada and went into the ministry, graduating from Wycliffe College in 1913. He was posted to the Yukon, and while in

Dawson City met the King of the Klondike, Joe Boyle.

In 1914, Joe Boyle recruited and outfitted a 50-man machine-gun detachment which was reputed to have cost him \$200,000. John Davies worked as a padre in the army and at that time held services for Joe Boyle's men.

John got out of the army in 1919 and proceeded to continue his ministry in the Anglican Church. It is interesting to note that in 1966, he was again asked to go back to the Yukon. He spent six weeks at the Cathedral House and visited practically all the missions.

Dr. Davies's association with the St. John Ambulance Corps began before the First World War as rector of Old St. Paul's in Woodstock. He worked with Alcoholics Anonymous; chaplain of Branch 55, Royal Canadian Legion; the historical society; the Elgin Regiment Veterans' Association; the Oxford Rifles Association; honorary member of the Rotary Club.

Probably one of the most historic events Canon Davies took part in was the reburial of Colonel Joe Boyle on June 29, 1983. Remember, he met Joe Boyle some 70 years earlier; Colonel Joe Boyle, the most decorated Canadian in the First World War.

At his 100th birthday party, the bishop from London was in attendance. The bishop was 88 years of age. John leaned over to me and said, "Charlie, let the old bishop have a chance to speak."

On November 11, 1985, Padre Canon John Davies stood as usual at the cenotaph and gave the benediction. He lived one more year and died in 1986, 101 years old; a quiet, unassuming gentleman with a good sense of humour, beloved by all. The roster of retired people would include men like Canon John Davies.

It seems to me that this resolution makes so much sense because so many people are retiring at an earlier age, and the opportunity to bring them in and take part would be of benefit to all of us. I certainly support this resolution.

By the way, what did Methuselah do for 904 years?

Mr. Speaker: I have just been considering the situation. I wonder if the House would be in agreement. Usually the leadoff speaker has 20 minutes. If we allow the member for Brampton South, who has arrived now from the heavy traffic, to have his 10-minute period and then the balance of the 10 minutes at the end, would that be agreeable? Agreed.

Mr. Callahan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I want to thank members of the House. You are

quite right, Mr. Speaker, I come from captivity on Highway 410, and I hope that the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Fulton) is listening.

The resolution has been kindly introduced earlier by my colleague. My reason for putting forth this resolution was that we concern ourselves about resources throughout Ontario, throughout Canada, throughout the world. One of the most significant resources we have are those men and women who have left their formal employment as a result of being retired.

You will note in the motion I do not refer to them as senior citizens, I refer to them as retirees. The reason for that is that more and more people today are being retired at a much earlier age than 65, which seems to be the magic time for going into senior citizenship. I suppose the item concerns me even more greatly these days as I fast approach the golden years.

Let's look at it this way: The people who have had the jobs—and those jobs need not necessarily be professional jobs; they could be jobs as tool and die makers, mechanics, accountants, what have you—have all earned, through their formal training plus their experience over the lifetime of their job, a tremendous amount of experience that will be wasted. It will be wasted in a sense that if no one is prepared to take advantage of that, to tap that gold mine, then in fact that information will be lost.

It is particularly significant in most fields, but I would address first the question of people who are skilled tradesmen. We all know that in Ontario and in Canada, and perhaps even in North America and throughout the world, there is a falling off of the specific trades. There are perhaps not enough skilled people.

I suggest to the members of the House part of that problem is the fact that we have become so advanced that we have left some of the more reasonable approaches of the past, where it was traditional for the persons who were more senior than the others to perhaps sit around and instruct the youth of the tribal unit and pass on the information and the knowledge and the expertise that these particular people had acquired. We have lost that.

What we do is that we have formal training for people in order to educate them in either a profession or a skill, we allow them to be employed for a certain artificial period of time and then we lose them. We in fact put them on the shelf and we say, "We don't need you any longer."

What I am suggesting through this program is akin to the intern program that we have here in

the Legislature, which was adapted from the intern program in Ottawa. What we do is bring young people into the Legislature in order to allow them to help backbenchers, basically, but also to provide them with an understanding of how the Legislature works, how government works, so that they can go back out into the community and perhaps be better citizens and perhaps have a better understanding.

Just as an aside, it is interesting to note that I think only one intern, of all the interns who have been in either the federal or the provincial parliament, ever went into politics. That says a great deal for their common sense. It is obvious that what they saw down here clearly did not lead them to a political career.

This is not something that is new. In Florida they have what they call the Silver Threads Club, and that is a very appropriate name for such an endeavour. In essence, what this program itself does is to tap the vast resources that are available, and of course Florida is probably the haven for many people who are retired or are senior citizens. It is known as the Canadian South and a lot of our people with all this information are probably down there. Surely, if they saw this as an important feature—it is not a new idea—it is something we could adopt ourselves.

1020

I suggest to the members that it has also been adopted, in certain respects, within our own government. The Ministry of Community and Social Services operates the senior volunteer(s) in service program, a program which recruits and trains volunteers in isolated areas to work with seniors in such areas as friendly visiting and escorted transportation. It is already in place, in a sense.

I might add that there is an additional example, the Senior Peer Counselling Project in Hamilton-Wentworth. That is a volunteer group. From September 1985 to September 1988, they served over 7,953 seniors and helped senior volunteers participate in the community.

An additional example of it is the Halton Small Business Advisory Group Inc. That is a nonprofit organization composed of a number of retired business people. These people offer seasoned advice to small business entrepreneurs. Members understand business at all levels and have assisted younger entrepreneurs in management, marketing, accounting, merchandising, general business operation and retail sales. They have counselled over 200 businesses since their inception in 1984.

I suggest that what I am bringing forward here is not necessarily a new idea, but I would like to see it in such a way that it receives formal backing by the government, formal backing by this Legislature and an opportunity to list the people, should they wish to participate in this type of program, someplace where it would be accessible to the various levels of government; not just the Legislature, not just government here, but perhaps school boards, municipalities and so on.

In my travels through my own riding I visited a retirement home where there are five senior citizens who have voluntarily chosen to attend at one of the local primary schools. I am told there is a tremendous interaction between them and the people who are receiving this benefit of surrogacy, surrogacy by these seniors who perhaps have their grandchildren located in some other area of Ontario. They have the opportunity to come and be a surrogate to these young people. Equally, the young people who perhaps do not have grandparents within the area where they live have the surrogacy the other way.

There is a whole host of areas. I can envisage situations such as in our community colleges where we might bring a senior in, should the senior wish to do it, to address the students on the practical aspects of business. Much of our academia really is done on an intellectual, not a practical basis. I suggest that here is an opportunity to tap a very significant resource.

I suppose one could ask, "Is this situation going to be one where you're going to go out and interfere with the free time of the people who have retired?" Of course not. We should be looking at the retirees who perhaps have had their little period of time where they wanted to rest and play golf or whatever else they had planned for their retirement and now wish to get back into providing and sharing with the next generation some of the expertise they gathered while they were in the field of business, the professions or the trades.

I suggest that if we offer this opportunity, and if I am correct that there is a need for it and that there are retirees out there who would wish to do this, then we will have tapped a very significant resource of this province. At a time of vast expenditures of revenues and the outlay of money on the part of government, we have to look at every possible resource. We should be looking at this resource. It is not new. It is a historical fact that this is the way things were done in the past.

I urge the members of the Legislature to pass this resolution and allow us to issue that challenge to retirees. I suggest the Legislature will be doing a number of things that I have just indicated, but in addition to that it will be recognizing that the human worth of these people is still respected and still needed by our society and that simply because an artificial age was set for retirement, these people need not become forgotten flowers of the field that are going to be allowed to wilt.

I urge members to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker: Do you wish to reserve the full 10 minutes at the end?

Mr. Callahan: Yes, I do.

Ms. Bryden: The motion does give us an opportunity to discuss ways of enabling the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs (Mrs. Wilson) to carry out her mandate to look after the special needs of seniors—needs for adequate income, affordable housing, geriatric health programs, including better nursing home programs, transportation access and recreational and socialization programs. Unfortunately, the resolution does not deal with any of those needs. This is why I think we should not support this motion.

In effect, what the member is proposing is a new so-called intern program, apparently modelled on the intern program at Ottawa and here for political science and other students in universities or graduates of universities. That is a very valuable program to make those students aware of how politics works and to work with a member. To call on a volunteer person with expertise to come in here and become, in effect, a person attached to a member in order to learn about the political process is an entirely wrong-way idea.

An internship is a training program for future activities. These people would not be available except perhaps a certain number of days a week. They would not necessarily be available on a long-term basis. They are not looking for civil service jobs or political candidacies. It looks to me rather like an attempt to get some more free assistance for Liberal backbenchers to carry out their case work or their contacts with the community and so on.

While I think the present intern program is very valuable, I do not favour a so-called intern program based on volunteers who say they have a few hours a week and might be interested in helping advise on a better labour act for plumbers and that sort of thing. If they do have expertise, the ministry should be seeking them out.

Ministers such as the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara) and the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) should be seeking out those people in the community.

A lot of communities are operating very good self-help programs for seniors where they do seek out the expertise in their riding. They always keep up to date on what is available and they keep looking for people. The member should be encouraging not only his own backbenchers but all members of this Legislature to develop community-based programs for seniors that will take advantage of the expertise in that community.

If we look at the awards for senior citizens, we find that a lot of the communities are doing that now. They are making awards to people who have been giving that kind of help in implementing the mandate of the minister to make life better for senior citizens.

I remind the member that we do have an Ontario Advisory Council on Senior Citizens that reports once a year and holds numerous meetings and consultations and which is always looking for sources of information on groups and individuals in the community who may be able to develop its programs.

I also remind the member that the minister has a staff of 40 people. About 30 of them are engaged as policy analysts or project leaders. They are presumably already researching the sort of programs that should be available for seniors that I mentioned above. If they are not contacting persons with potential expertise in the community they are not doing their job. They should be the ones who are looking for those people and using them immediately. To keep an index of ones who are available at a certain date of application and are available for X hours is really counterproductive.

1030

Also, where the minister has the power to appoint people to the Ontario Advisory Council on Senior Citizens, to various task forces and to other groups that may have been delegated a question to study, those positions should be advertised instead of just being the appointment of the minister. Then we would have people coming forward and saying, "I am interested in senior citizens' affairs, I have the following expertise and I would be glad to sit on that council or to sit on a subcommittee of it."

That is the way to get at that expertise. This is not the way and this could require a considerable bureaucracy to operate it, because you would have to advertise widely that you want people to

come forward and volunteer. You would then have to maintain a skills bank of the people who qualify after the ministry has looked at their credentials. Then if there are any changes in the details, they would have to update the list very frequently and it would not be available when it may be needed for a particular subject. The ministry concerned with that project or study would be the one that would have to really go and look for the expertise. I am not opposed to looking and to using expertise and volunteers outside, but I think it should not be a complete substitute for the present work of the government in having more people involved in policymaking.

I think the member's motion would have been better received if he had concentrated on persuading his caucus to implement some of the many election promises the Liberals made in 1987 regarding seniors. Let me list a few: adequate homemaking service to enable seniors to stay in their own homes, better home care services to free up hospital beds, community-based delivery of health care to keep people well rather than sending them to hospitals and nursing homes, and better regulation of nursing homes.

In fact, when the government came into the accord with the New Democratic Party, one of the clauses was to provide "Reform of services for the elderly to provide alternatives to institutional care and a reform of the present nursing home licensing and inspection system." That was in the NDP-Liberal accord. It has not been carried out very well.

Other promises which we are still waiting action on and to which any funds that are available would be much better devoted are: the dental care program for seniors, a promise made in 1985 and 1987; the one-stop access program, which has only six pilot projects; more housing for seniors, geared to income. Transportation accessibility was also promised and yet we still have the subway system looking after only ambulatory people, not people who cannot negotiate stairs.

We also need more intergenerational services in the schools between seniors with knowledge and experience and the pupils. There are one or two pilot projects on that in the province. We need seniors in day care centres. There is going to be a new day care centre in my riding in the next year and it is going to bring seniors into the day care program to assist with the children and there will be good intergenerational feedback.

We need better assistive devices programs for seniors. Many of them are not getting what they need or, as was pointed out yesterday in the

debate on health, the red tape is so much that it is more expensive to apply than to get the assistive device yourself. We need more geriatric centres, because the population of seniors in this province is going to become much greater, by about 86 per cent in the next 25 years.

We do not have most of those things going on, yet we are talking about setting up a program that could cost a considerable amount of money if the volunteers are here on a regular basis, and it could also require a lot of bureaucratic work that the ministry has no resources to carry out.

In fact, we need far more resources to seniors' programs. I think that is the weakness of this resolution. It is not asking the government to do anything about providing more resources to the implementation of these other election promises, and that is what we really need at this time.

Mrs. Cunningham: I am in a very interesting position in speaking to this motion put forth by the member for Brampton South this morning in that we definitely agree with the principle of the motion. There is no doubt in our mind that what the member is trying to bring to the attention of this House is the fact that we have a wonderful untapped resource out there; that is, volunteers, retired persons who have worked in this province in many fields and who are more than willing to provide their services, which are much needed, on an ongoing basis in many areas. The previous speaker has spoken about how we could be using them in our hospitals, our seniors' homes, our schools and many other parts of the workings of the province.

We do have a tremendous concern about the particular ministry that, certainly in the view of the member for Brampton South, would be responsible for this, that is the Office for Senior Citizens' Affairs. We have concern, because over the last two years this particular ministry has consistently failed to implement promised programs and address the needed co-ordination of services for seniors. We have very real concerns about whether this is the ministry that should be responsible for the co-ordination of volunteers in this particular area if it is not able to deliver the programs that this province has agreed to pay for.

The strategic planning and policy development activities to put in place a new policy framework for Ontario's seniors is part of the responsibility of that ministry, as well as the comprehensive planning and overall co-ordination of services for the elderly. The problem is, I do not think it is effectively delivering on this particular responsibility.

We have been told, as we have been talking to seniors this fall and winter, that they are frustrated as to which ministry to go to. They are often told that much of what concerns them is not within the jurisdiction of the ministry itself. They are referred to the Ministry of Community and Social Services, the Ministry of Health and even the Office for Disabled Persons.

Not a lot has happened with regard to the co-ordination between the ministries over the last three years. The Office for Senior Citizens' Affairs, in our opinion, has failed to live up to most of the responsibilities and promises that were put to us in its report called *A New Agenda: Health and Social Service Strategies for Ontario's Seniors*. We do not think it has moved to co-ordinate and rationalize all the services for seniors with a special emphasis on the development of community-based services. We are really having a difficult time with the particular ministry, and we hope that the member will take a look at that.

Given our experience in how volunteer bureaux are operating in our communities—the funding seems to be mainly from the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney)—we are very concerned about this particular ministry and how it operates now and how we could ask it to take on even another role.

We will not argue with the principle of this resolution. It is an excellent one that would utilize those members of our society who are excited about the prospect of volunteering their wonderful skills and the services that they have provided to our wonderful community of Ontario in the past in a voluntary manner. However, we have two issues, one being a directory that must be maintained and the other issue being the training. We talk about an internship program—and that is a training program—for our volunteers.

1040

In discussing this ballot item, we talked to the Central Volunteer Bureau of London and we talked to a particular group that would relate, I think, to the Silver Threads Club that was mentioned previously this morning, a group called Over 55 (London) Inc. We also talked to the Volunteer Bureau of Leeds and Grenville, as well as John Roberts, the chairman of Coalition for Seniors in London, Ontario. We have tried in a very short period of time to get some input as to how the people who are providing the volunteer services now out there in our communities would feel about this particular motion.

They do have some concerns and they have a number of questions. They are certainly not prepared to support another level of bureaucracy, and I am sure that is not what the member intended. What they do feel very strongly about is that this particular service should be community-based. It should be hooked into the existing service providers out there now.

I think most communities do have some kind of a volunteer bureau. What is lacking in those volunteer bureaux is something called core funding. If we want something to happen, and if this resolution is intended to make something happen, then we have to have some kind of support from the government to make it happen, and a real commitment.

If we are going to get ourselves involved in another big bureaucracy with something being run from Toronto or a regional or area office, it will not work. I would like the member for Brampton South to speak to that concern.

We do need a partnership, we need someone to show leadership, and as the groups that are involved now tell us, we need some kind of a commitment to core funding, because someone has to organize this list, someone has to recruit the volunteers and someone has to speak to all of the different programs out there that are looking for support from volunteers. We have named a few already: in our child care programs, in our school programs at the elementary, secondary and university levels, in our hospitals and in our senior citizens' homes, there are very many places that this wonderful resource could be used and we know we have the resources out there that are willing to volunteer their help.

We do have real problems with the leadership that could be provided by this government, since we do not think it is provided now within the Office for Senior Citizens' Affairs. We do not think the co-ordination of services for seniors is being promised and we wonder how that ministry could possibly support and make this program that is being offered work.

We have been accused of being negative. In fact, we are going to be supporting this resolution. What we are trying to do right now is to raise our concerns. I think that is a very positive way of dealing with any resolution in this House. We are very interested in having the member present some answers to the questions we have asked.

The last point we would like to speak to is the fact that if one is going to be responsible for lists that are going to be the property of either a government agency or a ministry, I think we have

some concerns with confidentiality, and we are facing those concerns out there now as we try to establish lists around people who are willing to provide services in the area of child care. That is something that the member should be aware of.

That is why I think the ownership for this program ought to be with the volunteer agencies that are out there now. All we should be doing is supporting them with some kind of a framework, some kind of a training program, a definition, and perhaps with a small group that could go out—from within the existing resources, because they should be there now—and provide this role of training for volunteers, this role that would certainly provide the co-ordination of the volunteer programs and some core funding for the agencies that already exist.

We would like to commend the member for bringing his resolution here today. We support it very much in principle. He has heard of our concerns. We hope that perhaps this could go to some committee where we could get some input as to how this kind of resolution could become a reality.

Mr. Wildman: In looking at this resolution, I must say I am of two minds. I was thinking, actually, because of the circumstances surrounding the beginning of the debate today, that perhaps the member might be able to use the expertise of a traffic controller in an internship program.

I said I was of two minds because obviously there is a tremendous pool of expertise available among retired persons, who could perhaps feel more productive themselves, and certainly help younger people, by participating in such a program. I tend to be sympathetic to the views of the member.

On the other hand, I do have some serious concerns, along with my colleague the member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden), regarding funding for a volunteer bureau in this province. We seem to be proposing an expansion of the volunteer program, when as yet we still do not have adequate ongoing funding for the various bureaus in the communities across Ontario now which are attempting—and, I think, doing an admirable job with the resources they have—to co-ordinate volunteerism in their own communities. So I am of mixed views on this resolution.

I can think of the large number of retired persons in my community, many of whom are already, of their own volition, carrying out programs to assist in many activities. I know of some seniors in my area who are not volunteering, but working on a contract basis with the

Federal Business Development Bank, who are giving their expertise as former small business people who have some knowledge of accounting, record keeping, and the ways to get a business going, and are giving that expertise, without a great deal of remuneration, to assist younger people who are just starting out in business.

Also, a number of seniors are working in the schools, working with teachers and with students to give students perhaps a greater perspective than they might have simply from going to school every day with their own colleagues of their own age and with the young adults as teachers. This is particularly of importance today when we are in the time of the nuclear family, when very many young people hardly know their grandparents because their grandparents live many hundreds of miles away and maybe visit them only once or twice a year.

It is a very different situation from those of us who were lucky enough to grow up in a family where our grandparents lived nearby or even lived with us. Also, there are seniors in my area who are involved in community activities, not just working with young students in volunteer organizations, but are actually involved in developing recreational programs for people of all ages, even working in co-ordinating section 38 programs where we have people who are working to try to develop work skills. We have perhaps a retiree who has those skills and has been asked by the sponsoring agency to co-ordinate and develop a program that would help younger people learn the kinds of skills they require in order to enter the workforce and be productive, both for themselves and for our society.

1050

There is certainly an opportunity. If there were some co-ordinating effort made, it might make it more effective so that it was not as haphazard as it tends to be today. There might be actually some way of knowing what various skills are available, what people are available, and then make it possible to connect them with those who might be able to benefit from that expertise and those skills.

Again, I am very concerned about the lack of adequate funding for the volunteer bureau we have today. In my area, the volunteer bureau of Sault Ste. Marie and Algoma is attempting to develop a computer program of the various programs available to seniors, to serve seniors throughout the district. I think they are doing a good job in terms of trying to develop programs such as volunteer programs which usually

involve other seniors driving people who maybe have difficulty getting out to shop, to see friends or go to medical appointments or whatever, programs like Meals on Wheels and Wheels to Meals, those kinds of programs, but they are having to struggle along without adequate funding.

It seems to me that if we are very serious about trying to assist our seniors to become less isolated and to feel they are needed and wanted in our communities, we have to provide the Office for Senior Citizens' Affairs or the Ministry of Community and Social Services with the funding that would make it possible for the various volunteer programs available to actually work without moving already to expand programs.

I am not certain how I am going to vote on this—I am interested in hearing the member's concluding remarks—but I will say that this government, like many governments, has tended to be very good on rhetoric. I hope that does not sound too partisan. I do believe this in this case. To be frank, I am not singling out the Liberal government in Ontario. I think this is true of the federal Conservative government and it has been certainly been true of other governments, probably including New Democratic Party government.

Whenever we identify a need, politicians are very good about talking about programs that should be developed to respond to those needs, but when it gets to the realities of a particular party gaining power and having all of the competing demands made upon that government, it seems to me that volunteerism is one of those areas, along with areas to serve seniors in general, which is given low priority and is put low on the list.

You can understand why, I suppose. Obviously, in the situation we have in Ontario today, there is a tremendous demand for moneys for health care, for instance. If the Treasury is being divided up and there is an argument between whether we provide funding for cancer treatment facilities or for surgery facilities in hospitals, they tend to be more immediate, and those demands for assistance for home care, home-maker services or volunteer services that might help seniors, and get seniors involved themselves, tend to be given short shrift.

I think perhaps it is time for us to stand back and ask, "All right, what have we identified as needs in terms of volunteerism and for retirees in Ontario?" What has the government said it wishes to do? Is it properly funding those services now, and if not, maybe that is what we

should be doing rather than moving to expand on what we say we would like to do before we put up the money for it.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. M. C. Ray): The time remaining will permit only the windup by the mover of the motion, the member for Brampton South.

Mr. Callahan: How much time do I have for windup?

The Acting Speaker: There are 10 minutes remaining.

Mr. Callahan: This has been a rather unusual morning, to say the least. I am not sure it has ever been done this way before. I would ask perhaps for the indulgence of the members for unanimous consent that my colleague the member for Etobicoke West (Mrs. LeBourdais) might share my time with me.

The Acting Speaker: Is there unanimous consent?

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, does the debate not have to end at 11 a.m.?

Mr. Wildman: Yes. He is going to share his time.

Ms. Bryden: There are only two minutes.

The Acting Speaker: The wall clock is not accurate; the digital clock is. The time remaining, I am told by the table, is 10 minutes. Is there unanimous consent to divide the time?

Mr. Wildman: There are 10 minutes left? If Mr. Callahan wants to give up his time, that is all right.

The Acting Speaker: Fine. The member for Brampton South.

Mr. Callahan: I believe that the member for Etobicoke West would go first and I would wind up.

Mrs. LeBourdais: I am delighted this morning to rise in the House to speak in favour of the resolution of the member for Brampton South.

Certainly life for everyone in this province has been immeasurably enriched by the contributions and dedication of the older members of our society. An internship program for retired volunteers is very much in keeping with the philosophy of the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs that opportunity is ageless. That particular theme was developed so that we could understand that it is a time to explore new challenges. For many, turning 65 is an opportunity in itself, freeing up time to pursue new challenges, volunteering, travelling, attending classes and teaching—in fact, beginning a whole new career.

In a time when many of our elderly population are beginning new careers it is noteworthy that one third of all volunteers in Ontario are seniors. Medical science and technology are allowing seniors today to live longer lives with greater wellbeing. They are able to do more, contribute more and want to be active, contributing members of our society.

Just think of some of the high-profile seniors who have become role models for us all: former Governor General Roland Michener, our present Governor General, Jeanne Sauv , former Prime Minister Trudeau and entertainer George Burns, for whom life truly began at 90 when he began a whole new career. Just think of the interest and excitement generated by Toronto's own Harold Ballard with his ongoing business and personal affairs. He certainly manages to generate more colour and excitement than his hockey team does. Suffice it to say, there is an enormous talent bank already out there.

I would like to mention a couple of people from my own riding of Etobicoke West. Just last week, I interviewed on my television program a married couple, Eleanor and Charles Hynds, who have an organization that they are involved with called Care-Ring Canada, where they provide a variety of services to the community, basically younger seniors helping older seniors. I also had a gentleman of 80 years of age come into my riding with some very solid, well-thought-out, well documented, well articulated solutions to the housing crisis, which I was able to pass on to the Minister of Housing (Ms. Ho ek) for consideration in that particular ministry. Certainly age is no barrier to wisdom and knowledge.

1100

Another area that has not been mentioned this morning that I think is worthy of consideration is the multicultural area. In many countries from other areas of the world, wisdom is passed on perhaps less through books and media such as radio and television, but rather through the seniors in the community. The younger members gather round and learn the wisdom, experiences and practice from the older members of their community.

Without taking too much further time, I just want to note a few other seniors who were recipients in 1988 of the Ontario Senior Achievement Award. I think by just reading a couple, it might give an indication of the degree of expertise at very senior ages. For instance, Mrs. Kate-King-Fox Assinewai, a native Indian currently completing her degree in native studies at Laurentian University—this lady is 78—speaks to

native children on the importance of education and maintaining their heritage.

Another, Ernest Berner, 80 years of age, organized the Ontario Seniors' Games in his area, as well as the annual Senior Citizens Month activities for the local seniors group. Certainly, we could call on many of our seniors if the province were fortunate enough to gain the Olympic games for 1996.

Another lady, Mrs. Mildred Temple, 92 years of age, has been involved in the formation of many nonprofit organizations, including conservation of the Rouge Valley, Unionville Home Society and the construction of Union Villa Home for Senior Citizens in that area. Again, there is a strong suggestion that there are all sorts of talents. I think if we can amass them and use those talents to enrich our society, it is all to the good. For that reason, I very much support the resolution of the member for Brampton South.

Mr. Callahan: First, I want to thank all members of the House for their participation in the debate and some very helpful tips. I indicate to the member for Beaches-Woodbine that I acknowledge there are already in existence vast numbers of volunteer organizations and senior citizens' clubs. I can assure her that Brampton South, as well as Peel region, has a great number of seniors who have organized in that way.

My concern is that there are seniors who have this expertise in the fields that I have addressed earlier who perhaps are reticent, either through just moving into the area or not being an outgoing person, about seeking out areas where they can use their talents. That is the reason for this type of encouragement and this type of invitation from government.

On the question of bureaucracy, at no time did I ever anticipate that this would create a bureaucratic nightmare. What I am trying to do, and what I think other members in speaking to it are trying to do, is a number of things: first of all, to recognize the talents of these seniors. In addition to that, it is very important to create for them a positive image.

I would say the feeling of being retired or being a senior perhaps and no longer being required in the workforce is a bit of a traumatic experience in itself. Some people could think life is over. We do not want that to happen. We want to use and employ those talents.

In addressing the concern of the member for London North (Mrs. Cunningham), she indicated something with regard to its being locally dealt with. I like that idea. I think that is a good idea. I would hate to think that everything would

be just controlled from Toronto. I think we have seen that.

Ms. Bryden: Fund the local organizations.

Mr. Callahan: Yes. I think that would be very important.

I might add as well that I had not addressed the question of multiculturalism, and I suppose that was because of the way I arrived here, out of breath and having just come out of a traffic jam. But I appreciate the comments made by my colleague the member for Etobicoke West, because that is a very significant issue to look at.

The new Canadians who are coming to this country do in fact have this tremendous family involvement, this attitude that the older person is a central figure in their house. That goes a long way towards maintaining the solidarity of the family and also educating the young people. I think we can learn a lot from that particular example.

However, there are people as well who have talents and perhaps would be even more reticent, because of their new arrival to Canada, about seeking out opportunities to attend a school and speak with young children. I think that is very important. I think young people have a great deal of respect for seniors and, for that reason, there is a tremendous opportunity to use the talents of these people, not just the specific commercial talents or professional or task talents but also the very wisdom they have that comes with age.

For us to miss out on that would be a tremendous loss. I think we all agree in that regard and on that concept, but I guess it is the question of how you harness it and how you provide a vehicle through which it can be used.

I might add as well that the federal government did at one time have a plan similar to this in terms of sending retired executives, I think it was, overseas. It paid their expenses and used their expertise and shared it with countries that perhaps did not have that type of talent bank built up.

So I suggest to members that it is not new, but I think that with the ever-increasing numbers of seniors that we have now and have had over the past three decades and will anticipate between now and the year 2000 and beyond, it is essential that we place these talents in what one might call a senior talent bank, so that we can draw on them in the future, we can draw on the expertise and the understanding.

Many retired Canadians who would like to volunteer, as I said, are not sure where to direct their interest or talents, and we have to assist them in that regard. Agencies which require

volunteers often need help in finding the right people. A senior talent bank, if you want to call it that rather than an intern program, could provide potential volunteers with opportunities to help programs and agencies find the right people to meet their needs.

In conclusion, I ask members to support this motion. Working out the details perhaps can be done by it being sent to some form of a hearing stage.

VEHICLES ON CONSERVATION AUTHORITY LANDS

Mrs. Fawcett moved resolution 62:

That in the opinion of this House, recognizing that conservation authorities provide the people of Ontario with water management, many other resource management programs and outdoor recreational opportunities, and also recognizing that the use of dirt bikes and all-terrain vehicles is not compatible with the aforementioned functions of conservation authorities, the government of Ontario through the Minister of Natural Resources should bring forward legislation to prohibit the use of all such vehicles on conservation authority lands.

Mrs. Fawcett: It is the intent of this resolution that the government, by the banning of dirt bikes and all-terrain vehicles from conservation authority lands, shall enforce the conservation authorities' mandate. Removing these vehicles, which have a negative environmental impact, will, to my way of thinking, create a much safer environment for all users of conservation authority lands. Many people use conservation authority lands as a unique refuge from the bustle and noise of urban sprawl. I do not envision dirt bikes and all-terrain vehicles as being compatible with this use.

At present there are 38 conservation authorities in Ontario. The objectives of these authorities are set out in section 20 of the Conservation Authorities Act:

"20. The objects of an authority are to establish and undertake, in the area over which it has jurisdiction, a program designed to further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources other than gas, oil, coal and minerals."

Here I would like to emphasize the words "further the conservation and restoration," for I feel that by banning dirt bikes and ATVs we will help conservation authorities meet these objectives.

For the purposes of accomplishing its objectives, the authorities are given a wide range of

powers, including those in clauses 21(l) and (m) of the act which state:

"(l) to use lands that are owned or controlled by the authority for such purposes, not inconsistent with its objects, as it considers proper;

"(m) to use lands that are owned or controlled by the authority for park or other recreational purposes, and to erect, or permit to be erected, buildings, booths and facilities for such purposes and to make charges for admissions thereto and the use thereof."

1110

I would like to point out that the use of authority lands is not to be inconsistent with its objectives, which are to further the conservation, restoration, development and management of its natural resources, and that these objectives should be kept in mind, especially when the authorities are considering recreational uses of their land.

This legislation also authorizes authorities to make regulations with respect to certain matters such as, and I quote from clause 29(1)(e), "regulating and governing vehicular and pedestrian traffic and prohibiting the use of any class of vehicle or classes of vehicles."

Pursuant to this regulation-making power, over 90 per cent of conservation authorities in Ontario have adopted a generic regulation controlling the public use of conservation areas, including the use of all-terrain vehicles, off-road vehicles and snowmobiles. Most conservation authorities have designated trail routes for use by off-road vehicles, particularly where there are multiple users. There are some authorities who allow off-road vehicles use on tracts of land that are not subject to multiple use. However, although these regulations and controls may be considered a good first step, I definitely feel they do not go far enough.

I feel that perhaps some of the authorities have addressed the question of safety by not allowing the use of off-road vehicles on tracts of land that are subject to multiple use. However, the negative environmental impact which these vehicles have on conservation authority land in general has not been considered.

There are several Canadian reports on the impact of off-road vehicles and also a number of American studies have examined the environmental impact on various types of terrain in the United States. All these studies report serious, potentially long-lasting and, according to some researches, irreparable harm to terrain and habitat types, an opinion which I share. With the support of this resolution, I feel we in Ontario

must now recognize these facts and take a step forward.

At this time I would like to take some excerpts from some of these studies and comments by leading environmental groups which point out the irreparable damage and environmental impact that off-road vehicles can have.

The Canadian Nature Federation has identified eight environmental problems caused by the use of such vehicles in Canada:

- increased road erosion through channelization;

- damage to planted and natural tree seedlings caused by driving over the trees;

- destruction of marram grass and lichen communities in sand dune systems, making them more prone to blowouts;

- compaction of trails through bogs, altering the microtopography and drainage and also crushing plant life;

- disruption of activities of hikers, bird-watchers and other recreacionals through increased noise from these vehicles;

- pollution of streams and bogs by oils, grease and gasoline from these vehicles;

- increased poaching through ready access to larger areas of watersheds, woodlands and other areas, making enforcement of game laws even more difficult; and

- disturbance of wildlife through harassment or inadvertent use of vehicles during critical seasons.

Areas in Nova Scotia have been affected by off-road vehicle activity where, again, they report that these machines crush the needles of evergreen plants, reducing their ability to photosynthesize.

It was also noted in the same report that their use is banned in all national parks. Officials at Parks Canada point out that the vehicles were cited for causing erosions on lake shores and river banks, thereby adding sediment to the water and destroying spawning beds for fish. The machines were also a concern because of noise pollution and possible harassment of wildlife.

As with all these studies, Mr. Speaker, I am sure you can appreciate how we in Ontario are subject to the same ill effects of dirt bikes and off-road vehicles in our conservation areas.

In Alberta, the government has limited motorized access on public lands. The executive director of the Alberta Wilderness Association contends that the ill effects of dirt bikes, three-wheel trikes, four-wheel drives and six-wheel ATVs are numerous.

I will point out some of the executive director's concerns here. He says: "Noise scares animals out of their migration patterns, while spinning tires tear up grazing areas and mutilate saplings. Vehicles churning through the creek beds disturb spawning grounds for fish and muddy the clear waters. The resulting silt buildup also makes it harder for fish to breathe."

Yet another Alberta environmentalist comments:

"Off-road vehicles are causing devastating damage to many of southern Alberta's wilderness areas. Mini-bikes, dune buggies, motorcycles and various four-wheel-drive vehicles are intruding on fragile ecosystems.... Knobby and wide-track tires are leaving their treadmarks in places that until recently were inaccessible to vehicles. In southern Alberta, most of the countryside is sparsely forested and gently rolling, land for which ORVs, unfortunately, are particularly suited. Vegetation is very fragile in the region, and it is the root systems that literally bind the sandy clay soil. A single pass of an ORV causes irreparable damage to the vegetation (plants are crushed) and also to soil (drainage is altered and erosion accelerated) and the scars remain for years. I have seen this damage done where the tires of these vehicles have left permanent scars on the floor of the Ganaraska forest."

In dunes along the east coast of New Brunswick, there is also a threat to birds. Here I quote the observations of naturalist David Christie, "With vehicles roaring back and forth, the impact on nesting birds is much more extensive than it once was."

In the United States, a report by the Council on Environmental Quality summed up the impact of these vehicles:

"ORVs have damaged every kind of ecosystem found in the United States: sand dunes covered with American beach grass on Cape Cod; pine and cypress woodlands in Florida; hardwood forests in Indiana; prairie grasslands in Montana; chaparral and sagebrush hills in Arizona; conifer forest in Washington, and Arctic tundra in Alaska. In some cases, the wounds will heal naturally; in others, they will not at least for millennia."

It would indeed be difficult to find a type of land mass not affected negatively by these vehicles. The nature of the damage caused by off-road vehicles was also examined in the Council on Environmental Quality's report:

"First and foremost, off-road vehicles eat land. It is because off-road vehicles attack that

relatively thin layer of disintegrated rock and organic material to which all earthly life clings—soil—that they can have such a devastating effect on natural resources.

"There seem to be two basic soil responses to ORV use. First, sandy and gravelly soils are susceptible to direct quarrying by ORVs and when stripped of vegetation, they are susceptible to rapid erosion processes. Second, more clay-rich soils are less sensitive to direct mechanical displacement by ORVs. But the rates of erosion of stripped, clay-rich soil is much higher under ORVs' use than under natural conditions. Furthermore, ORV pounding of clay-rich soil causes strong surface seals to form, thereby reducing the infiltration of water. This in turn leads to greater rain water runoff which causes gullying lower in the drainage.

"Once massive soil erosion begins, it will stop only after ORV riding stops and the native vegetation has had a chance to re-establish itself and stabilize the soil."

This report also lists some of the other problems associated with ORV use. A major difficulty, as the geological survey points out, is that the terrain which truly challenges the capability of these machines and which is therefore most attractive to many ORV operators is exactly that which is most highly sensitive to erosional degradation. This opening contradiction between machine capability and land sensitivity is a key issue. The more challenging the area is with hills, dales and obstacles, the better the drivers like it and subsequently use these courses again and again. Erosion is most evident in these areas.

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These machines also disrupt animal life. They collide with animals, especially smaller animals and reptiles. By destroying vegetation, they are also destroying animal food and shelter. In addition, off-road vehicles afford hunters and fishermen access to remote, untouched areas, thereby dramatically increasing the fish and game kills in those areas. The effects of ORV noise on animals, although imperfectly understood, is thought to be very damaging. The unnatural amounts of noise produced by ORVs place most species under stress. The noise can also aggravate a sick animal's condition during periods of hunger or disease.

As pointed out by the many studies, reports and acclaimed environmentalists, the use of dirt bikes and all-terrain vehicles has a tremendously negative environmental impact. I suggest that the use of such vehicles on conservation authority

lands is definitely not consistent with their objectives.

Another point I would like to touch on very briefly is that of safety for all those people we encourage to use conservation authority lands in a recreational manner. One of the problems the Canadian Nature Federation identified in its study was that of the increased probability of accidents caused by the use of motorized vehicles in the same area that other recreational activities are being enjoyed.

The risks associated with the use of all-terrain vehicles have been the subject of study and debate for some time. However, recently the United States Department of Justice, backed by the Consumer Product Safety Commission, in an unprecedented action, banned future sales of three-wheel all-terrain vehicles in the United States because of the risks.

In its complaint filed with the district court against the ATV industry, the CPSC said: "The risk of harm presented by ATVs is both imminent and unreasonable. Each time a three-wheel ATV is operated, a rider who is not aware of the unique handling characteristic of the vehicle...faces an unacceptably high risk that, at any moment and with no sign of impending danger, he or she will either be killed or suffer a severe personal injury.... Defendants have falsely and deceptively promoted ATVs as safe, easy-to-operate vehicles for the entire family.... Defendants have created the illusion that ATVs can easily and safely 'go anywhere,' when in fact ATV operation on some types of terrain is extremely hazardous."

In a recent report the accident prevention committee of the Canadian Paediatric Society recognized two-, three- and four-wheel off-road vehicles as hazardous to the health of Canadian children.

In my visit to a conservation authority that allowed the use of off-road vehicles, I found the use of such vehicles to be most dangerous to the wellbeing of other users. It would appear that if we are to allow naturalists, bird watchers and those who enjoy a peaceful walk through the woods to use conservation authority lands, these uses are definitely compatible with conservation authority objectives. Then it would also appear that if we are to allow dirt bikes and ATVs the use of conservation authority lands, these uses are definitely not compatible with conservation authorities' objectives.

In fact, the Ontario Trails Council, when discussing compatibility in its report, determined that motorized and nonmotorized trail uses are

not compatible on the same trail at the same time. Indeed, in their final report they stated there is little disagreement among trail groups when various types of trail activity are termed incompatible. Many "compatibility," or more accurately "incompatibility," problems stem from the use of a nonpower trail by power recreationalists.

This only accentuates the point I am trying to make. Conservation authority lands are viewed by many as a place in which we can appreciate nature; indeed, according to their objectives of conserving and restoring natural resources, this is true. However, the existence of these ground-grabbing, noise-making, destructive machines is totally incompatible with not only the objectives of the conservation authorities, but indeed with nature itself. It is my feeling that they need their own area where there is not a multiple recreational use and not where we have designated a conservation authority area.

Mr. Wildman: Is the member going to reserve the time left?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. M. C. Ray): The member has two minutes reserved.

Mr. Wildman: I must admit I am rather surprised at the introduction of this resolution by the member for Northumberland (Mrs. Fawcett). I understand her concern, but this is a government that purports to be in favour of local autonomy. We have seen with Sunday shopping that it is prepared to force local autonomy on the municipalities when they do not want it and here we have a resolution which basically is telling the conservation authorities, which already have the responsibility and the power to do what the member is suggesting, that they should do it.

What does that do for local autonomy? Surely the conservation authorities are appointed in order to establish and preserve conservation lands in particular areas and to determine how best those conservation lands should be preserved in their own areas. The conservation authorities, as the member for Northumberland has indicated, already have this power. It sounds to me as though perhaps the member is having some problems with a particular conservation authority that may or may not be doing what she thinks it should be doing.

Certainly conservation authorities are responsible for determining what kinds of activities are compatible with the objectives of the conservation authorities and can be carried out on conservation lands. If a conservation authority determined that it was desirable to prohibit motorized off-road vehicles on conservation lands, it could do that. Also, they have the

possibility of establishing nonpower trails and power trails if they want to allow for power vehicles within their conservation lands.

I think this points to a much larger problem we have. I want to make clear at the beginning that I do not think we can have a blanket policy for all conservation authorities across all Ontario in this regard. I think the conservation authorities in some parts of southern Ontario are dealing with much smaller areas, perhaps very sensitive areas. That is not necessarily the case in northern Ontario where we have conservation authorities that, in some cases, have very large conservation lands. Perhaps what is compatible with the objectives of a conservation authority in southern Ontario is not necessarily the same as what is compatible with the objectives of a conservation authority in the north.

I think, though, that it points to a major problem, and that is that we need a trails policy in this province. The previous government, during the time when the member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope) was the Minister of Natural Resources, discontinued assistance for trails grooming, usually snowmobile trails, that the Ministry of Natural Resources had provided in the past. The minister at that time just unilaterally decided that the Ministry of Natural Resources was no longer going to fund the maintenance of snowmobile trails which, in many cases, are used for off-road vehicles in the summertime.

When the snowmobile clubs at that time said, "How are we going to be able to fund the maintenance of these trails?" the Ministry of Natural Resources said, "You have the right, and we will give you the right, to charge a fee to users of the trail."

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That is all well and good in southern Ontario, and this points out the differences between the north and the south, because in most cases the lands that these trails were established on were either conservation authority lands, or more likely, private lands with the permission of the private landowner.

In northern Ontario, in most cases, these trails are on crown land that is owned by the provincial government and for which the Ministry of Natural Resources is responsible. The fact is that a snowmobile club that establishes a trail system on crown land with the permission of the Ministry of Natural Resources, usually with a land use permit, does not have any legal right to require a user of that trail to pay a fee. Since it is crown land, that land technically is owned by all

of us and all of us have the right to use it without charge.

The snowmobile clubs in northern Ontario are faced with a situation where they are responsible for grooming trails, usually through volunteer work and maintaining the trail system, and yet anybody who does not contribute to the maintenance of those trails can use the trails without making any contribution to the work. That is thanks to the previous government.

This government, when it came to power, said that it was going to establish a tourism strategy for northern Ontario, and part of that tourism strategy would be a trails policy. That tourism strategy was supposed to be published in October 1987; then it was postponed until December 1987; then until February 1988; then until May 1988; then until some time in the summer of 1988, and it is now 1989 and we still do not have that tourism strategy. It has somehow been lost in a quagmire of bureaucratic nonsense between the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines and the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation.

We need to have an overall strategy developed for tourism in the north, and one of the main aspects of that as far as I am concerned, will be a trails policy.

A lot has been said about the dangerous aspects of off-road vehicles. We have regulations in which, while snowmobiles are allowed to travel along the ditches, along the side of the road or to cross a road in a straight line, this is not allowed for off-road vehicles except for farmers and trappers. A lot of people who are owners of these kinds of vehicles think it is unfair that they are treated one way and snowmobilers are treated another.

I understand that in the United States there has been some serious concern about the stability of three-wheel vehicles and they have banned the manufacture and sale of those vehicles in that jurisdiction. If those studies are correct, then I would support that kind of an effort in Ontario; but I really wonder why four-wheel, off-road vehicles are treated differently than snowmobiles. I wonder why snowmobile trails that are used by these four-wheeled vehicles in the summertime cannot be established with some support from the provincial government.

Again, I reiterate that conservation authorities have the responsibility to decide how to meet their objectives for the maintenance of local conservation lands. I believe that generally, conservation authorities do an admirable job in this province; they fulfil a very important role.

I believe they have the local autonomy to make decisions that are appropriate to their area to ensure that activities within the conservation lands are compatible with their objectives. They can already prohibit certain types of activities on conservation lands. They could establish non-power trails to protect other users, who might be hiking or might be using bicycles, from accidents, because of power users on those trails.

I do not really think it is necessary for us in this House to pass this resolution, much as I sympathize with the concerns of the member for Northumberland.

Mr. Cureatz: I would like to begin by saying, as frustrating as it is, that I will only be using up five or six minutes. I hope, in the course of rotation, members will bide their time so that my critic for the Ministry of Natural Resources will be able to use the other four or five minutes remaining. We hope that the members will be most co-operative in that fashion.

In the few minutes that I have, I want to say that I will be supporting the resolution. I want to congratulate the member for Northumberland, who is my next-door neighbour to the east of my riding of Durham East, in bringing forward this resolution.

I want to say to her and to all the members assembled this morning in the assembly that this, in my mind, is a substantive, worthwhile private member's resolution that is coming forward this morning; unlike what we saw a couple weeks ago from the member for Ottawa South (Mr. McGuinty), who brought forth a back-slapping, self-serving, self-purposeful resolution for the government. We have got a private member who is coming forward with a resolution that affects her particular area and tries to give some overall direction to Ontario.

Just for the moment, I will recap a little bit of the history, because I give credit to the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) who indicated that maybe the member for Northumberland is having some troubles with a particular conservation authority and that might be the reason for the bringing forth of this resolution.

I say to him, that indeed it might be, because I am having some problems with the same authority in my area. I do not think she is specifically centring on that authority. But I will tell members what she has encountered, I think, is an overall concern and I think she is trying to be nice to her own administration and to the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) with this resolution.

I will be a little more critical of the minister. Here is the situation: At the same time she was first elected, I happened to move close to our own particular Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority jurisdiction, up to the lovely forest of the Ganaraska area, and lo and behold, suddenly we had some groups coming forward to myself saying: "There is a member of parliament moving in. Let's go to him with various complaints." Then I found out very quickly that there is a group of people who are using all-terrain vehicles in the forest and another group who are against the use of all-terrain vehicles.

I had no particular authority and I went to the authority itself. At a meeting which the honourable member attended. I laid forward a presentation to the authority—I say to the parliamentary assistant who very kindly visited our area, and I glad he is here in attendance—and I said to that authority at that time: "You people don't have the wherewithal to take on the kind of expanded use of this 10,000 acres that you are planning, opening it up into the kinds of usage of all-terrain vehicles. What you should be doing is going back to the Ministry of Natural Resources, indicating to it that you want some further assistance, you want some funding to co-ordinate an overall policy for the authority."

The authority did not do that; and at that time my colleague the member for Northumberland was very polite and she stood up when she had the opportunity to say something, and said, "Well, I'm just here to listen and I think I will not particularly participate." I thought, for a new member, what would you expect? I gave her credit for at least attending.

Lo and behold, a year and a half later here she is, and do you know what? I have seen the history now that has formulated in her involvement with this particular aspect. She has finally come along and said: "Do you know what? After evaluation and thoughtful consideration, it seems to me this is the direction that we should take." I give her credit.

If she was cute, she would take copies of her Hansard and in her next newsletter she would quote: "PC member for Durham East complimenting Northumberland Liberal member on her resolution." I hope she does. You never know. I might want to run federally in that area, and the free publicity would do me well.

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In any event, for the next minute and a half I will tell members what the problem is. The Ministry of Natural Resources, through the

Burgar report or the conservation authority review, should be co-ordinating, and I hope it does, an overall policy for conservation authorities.

My colleague the member for Algoma said both diverse aspects. He said first of all that the local authorities should be told what to do and then he talked about problems with particular trails up in northern Ontario, and the province should be involved. He is trying to have it both ways. I say to him that you have to get the province involved. That is where the major aspect of the money is to give to the authorities. That is where the depth of expertise is. We have provincial parks. We have had experience in those kinds of aspects. We have to remember that conservation authorities were originally developed under that great Premier, Leslie Frost, under the aspect of conserving watershed jurisdictions.

What I think we are seeing now in southern Ontario is an expansion of the population. They want to use this watershed area and the conservation authorities are trying to adjust to the expanded population, but they do not have the depth of experience or money to make the proper adjustment. They seem to be going off on different tangents and diversities, putting together what we call some user groups out our way.

Who is regulating the user groups? If there are injuries, who is responsible for injuries on the conservation authorities? At the moment, it is not good enough for the conservation authorities, in my mind, to be regulating usage of the large acreage of property they have. There has to be an overall co-ordinated policy.

I think the honourable member's resolution is an attempt, a first try at saying to the authorities, "Listen, you should be disbanding this kind of approach." Then, hopefully, the government will follow through with the report that is coming forward so that an overall direction will be given to them.

I could continue on at great length; I will not. We hope members will be obliging enough to allow my critic the opportunity of having his comments said.

Mr. McGuigan: Thank you for this opportunity, Mr. Speaker. I just wish to correct the record. I am not the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Natural Resources at the present moment. I was. That is now held by the member for Durham-York (Mr. Ballinger).

In any event, I am pleased to take part in this debate and support the resolution of the member for Northumberland. This resolution addresses

not only a local concern, but also a debate that is going on in Ontario as to the role of conservation authorities. Perhaps I have used the wrong word in saying "role." Perhaps I should say "direction" because no one on the government side is questioning the role conservation authorities have performed in the past.

The crusade had its past, or its beginnings actually, from a report that was made on the Ganaraska forest back in the 1940s and the act was passed in 1946. Some 42 years later, we find ourselves re-examining the position and I think coming to the conclusion that conservation authorities are now a mature organization. They hold about \$1 billion worth of assets in the form of dams and structures and things of that nature. During those years, to accomplish their task, they gained public acceptance by using educational skills and their ability to provide recreational opportunities for Ontario residents, and also to visitors, and they were used as a selling tool to sell the conservation authorities to the people of Ontario.

No one would offer any criticisms of their efforts, but we have reached a time, I suggest, when their limited budget—it was flat-lined by the former government for many years—needs to be directed in the future less towards recreation and more towards maintenance of the \$1-billion investment and towards putting in more steel and concrete for the many flooding problems that still exist in Ontario.

In my former position as parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Natural Resources, I listened on the minister's behalf to a number of delegates who had deserving cases, but because of limited funds and their position on the ratings scale, they had to be turned down for the moment.

The bottom line, I believe, is that the conservation authorities are a mature, well-accepted part of Ontario's political infrastructure. The need today and in the future is to turn their direction towards hard-line conservation and less towards recreation.

Having said that, I find myself supporting the honourable member with a certain number of tugs at my heartstrings, as does the member for Algoma. We recognize conservation authorities are structured as autonomous bodies, which one would hope and believe best know their local situation.

I think the honourable member is herself giving some expression to that same sentiment, because as members will note, the honourable member has prepared a resolution rather than a

private member's bill. The purpose of the resolution is to gauge the level of support from all parties that exists in the Legislature as a guide to local conservation authorities, rather than as a direction from the government. I commend the member not only for the content, but also for the vehicle she has used for her purposes.

Mr. Wildman: An off-road vehicle?

Mr. McGuigan: Actually, the member only mentions dirt bikes and all-terrain vehicles.

When I had the office of parliamentary assistant to the minister, I visited the Ganaraska forest on June 6 of last year. I submitted an opinion to the minister shortly afterwards. In summing up, I said to the minister that while I commended the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority for forming a user advisory group made up of local residents and representatives from trail bike groups, in my opinion the differences between the two competing groups were too wide to effect a working compromise unless the conservation authority put it to the bikers that they must control the noise and develop a self-policing system to follow through and deliver on any commitments they might agree to. The alternative, I agreed, was a ban on the use of bikes on authority land.

The member has spoken about the effects on the physical environment of the forests and I support her evidence and her conclusions.

I want to speak about the incompatible nature of the opposing user groups. They can be divided into two broad categories, passive and active. The passive groups are the residents who live within the conservation authority lands, some in permanent homes such as the honourable member for Durham East (Mr. Cureatz), some who live in seasonal retreats, some who live on farms, many who visit the forest as hikers, naturalists and scientists, and some who go there to escape the stress of modern industrial society as we now know it in Ontario.

There are, I believe, very few, if any conflicts within this user group, nor do they inflict any unwanted effects on dirt bikers. The action group, those who go there as individual riders, as members of biker clubs out for a ride or for organized competition, do impinge on the abilities, and I believe on the rights, of people to enjoy their individual properties or their collective property as stakeholders in the common property of Ontario, held in the name of the Queen for their present and future use.

I have had some personal experience with the conflicts between residents and those who create noise pollution, which is unavoidable with dirt

bikes. I would like to explain to those who do not own one of them or are not acquainted with them that they make a tremendous noise, based on the fact that the engines of these vehicles are much more powerful than can actually be sustained in continued use. If you drive one of those vehicles with wide-open power on the highway, in short order you will find the motor will seize up or disintegrate.

An example would be an air-cooled engine, a piston-driven engine, on an airplane. When the pilot takes off, I understand he gives almost full power and unleashes tremendous horsepower for that size of motor. That only lasts for about 30 seconds before the plane is off the ground. If you have watched the pilots or listened to them, very shortly they ease back the power to a cruising speed that the motor can sustain.

It is the same operation with a dirt bike. As the member has mentioned, it is only fun driving these in a situation where you have hills to climb, where you can crank that throttle wide open for just a few seconds. During those few seconds, the motor can put out a power of 200 horses, more power than we have in most cars. In fact, it even exceeds the power that is in some trucks. Of course, to go along with the sense of power, there are very few, if any mufflers on these vehicles so that when they crank the power open you get this intermittent sound which is a—

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Mr. Pouliot: It's a way of life.

Mr. McGuigan: We are talking about the member's resolution. We are not talking about a particular area in the north.

Anyway, the point I want to make is that it is part and parcel of the use of these vehicles that they make an ear-splitting noise. You might come back and say, "Why not put mufflers on them?" An engineer friend of mine tells me that when you put a muffler that is properly tuned on these vehicles or any vehicle—not just a production, off-the-shelf muffler, but a properly tuned muffler—it will actually create more power rather than less power. That is the nature of the thing.

The member also talked about these machines clawing their way through the terrain. Actually, they have the studded tire not for a matter of traction to grip the ground; that studded tire is there to kick dirt out behind it. If one takes a look at the rockets that go off from Cape Canaveral, they are propelled by the gases that come out the fire end of the machine. It is those gases that propel it. When you are going up a steep bank that can be 45 degrees or more—these people are naturally attracted to that type of terrain—they are

propelled not by the traction power of that studded tire, but are actually propelled by that stream of dirt. I am talking about hundreds of pounds that comes rushing out the back of the machine.

We have, I believe, a rather incompatible use. If I had time, I would tell the members what I did for a thrill when I was a youngster. I had a horse and I was just a thrill-seeker and did things as reckless as—

Mr. Ballinger: You're ageing yourself now, Jim.

Mr. McGuigan: They still have horses today.

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has now expired, I am sorry to say. The member for Hastings-Peterborough for up to four minutes.

Mr. Pollock: I am pleased to take part in this debate and put a few things on the record. Let me first say that I have the highest respect for the member for Northumberland, but I have to say that I do not fully support her resolution. I find this resolution is just a little out of place on this particular week.

For instance, it has to be one of the strangest weeks I have put in here at the Legislature when the government of the day brings forth Bill 113, which turns back the Sunday shopping issue to the municipalities, and then a government member comes forth with a resolution taking away from the local conservation authorities their actual authority to govern themselves and wanting to turn it back to a provincial ministry. I find that rather strange and a complete flip-flop in the way we do business here.

I just want to put it on the record too that the Ministry of Natural Resources owns all-terrain vehicles. Conservation authorities own all-terrain vehicles. After all, how can you ban them when these people actually own them? If somebody is breaking the law on conservation authorities, the police are able to come in and charge those people. If, for instance, they are underage drivers or if they are impaired, the police have the right to come in and charge them. In 90 per cent of the cases, I believe that is the case.

I would rather see a resolution put forward here in regard to engine torque versus road contact, meaning that the horsepower of a particular machine should relate to the inches of rubber that are in contact with the road. That, in turn, might eliminate dirt bikes because in my opinion, dirt bikes cause far more problems than all-terrain vehicles or snowmobiles.

The Ministry of Natural Resources has only 300 conservation officers and they are in no way

in a position to police all the conservation authorities in regard to this particular—

Mr. Ballinger: They do not have to; they police themselves.

Mr. Pollock: The resolution asks the Ministry of Natural Resources to police conservation authorities. That is what the resolution is about. In fact, the Ministry of Natural Resources actually has all-terrain vehicles it uses to fight forest fires. These are some of the things I want to put on the record.

I might say also that I have a snowmobile. I have driven on conservation authority lands and I have driven in provincial parks. I felt I had done no more damage to the conservation authority or the provincial park than John Doe is doing out there driving on the road.

Mr. Ballinger: Is it licensed?

Mr. Pollock: Yes, it is.

I might also say that I presented a private member's bill to this Legislature back in December 1987.

Interjection.

Mr. Pollock: I should have some more time because the NDP did not take its time.

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has expired, though. I believe the member for Northumberland reserved approximately three minutes.

Mrs. Fawcett: I would first of all like to thank all members for their participation and insight into this deplorable situation. I am happy to see the member for Algoma is now favouring local option. That is very good. I also wish to point out that my resolution really said nothing about snowmobiles. I thank the member for Durham East for the very kind personal remarks and support.

At this time, though, I would like to quote from The Ganaraska Watershed, a report considered by many to be the bible of rehabilitation forest management. The Ganaraska report was the basic document on which the Conservation Authorities Act of 1946 was drafted.

"How can people do such things to their own country—weaken its base, befoul its beauty, darken its future—How can they do such things and seem never to realize what they are doing? How can they countenance and join in a continual defacement and destruction of the body of their land?"

That capably sums up the point I am trying to make here today. We must preserve these designated lands of ours for future generations. I feel we can do this by working with conservation

authorities to help them further meet their objectives in areas where there is multiple recreational use, not work use. Banning dirt bikes and all-terrain vehicles for recreational use in conservation areas, I believe, would do just that.

The carefree recreational ride an off-road vehicle user takes today may well prove to be a most costly experience that our future generations will have to suffer. We in the Legislature today have the power to help preserve some of our natural habitat and I ask that all members join in supporting this resolution.

Mr. Speaker: We have now dealt with ballot item 61 and ballot item 62.

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RETIREE VOLUNTEERS

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Callahan has moved resolution 61.

Motion agreed to.

VEHICLES ON CONSERVATION AUTHORITY LANDS

Mr. Speaker: Mrs. Fawcett has moved resolution 62.

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Motion agreed to.

The House recessed at 12:02 p.m.

AFTERNOON SITTING

The House resumed at 1:30 p.m.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

NORTHERN HEALTH SERVICES

Miss Martel: In the throne speech of April 1987, the government announced its intention to open a regional office of the Ministry of Health somewhere in northern Ontario. In response to the announcement, the health and social services committee of the regional municipality of Sudbury passed the following resolution: first, that the Ministry of Health be requested to locate the regional office in Sudbury and second, that the ministry's area planning co-ordinator for northern Ontario be located in the same office.

The region approved the resolution and on May 27, 1987, forwarded this to the former Minister of Health. In August 1987, the region was advised that the ministry was reviewing the decision regarding the location of the office.

In September, the region offered the assistance of its senior staff to the ministry to aid in this review. A response to this offer was never received. In November 1988, the region again raised the matter, this time writing directly to the Premier (Mr. Peterson) to remind him of the promise made in the throne speech of 1987. Council again requested that the regional office of the Ministry of Health be located in Sudbury.

Finally, on January 16, 1989, a response was received from the Premier. He stated that careful consideration was being given to the location of this office to ensure the health care needs of northern Ontario would be met. He added that the review continued and no decision on location had yet been made. Two years after the fact, a regional office of the Ministry of Health has still not been established in northern Ontario. Is it any wonder, then, that we have little confidence in this government regarding the promises it makes?

POLICE DUTIES

Mr. McLean: My statement is directed to the Solicitor General (Mrs. Smith) and concerns the use of police officers to transport prisoners back and forth between jails and courts in Ontario. At the present time, two police officers are required to drive prisoners from such correctional facilities as the Barrie Jail to appear in court in the city of Orillia, the town of Penetanguishene or the town of Midland. In many instances, the court

appearance is a relatively short one because the case is put forward to a future date. This could occur a number of times. The police officers must then return the prisoners to the Barrie Jail to await trial.

We are paying police officers too much just to serve as a form of taxicab driver for Ontario prisoners. As far as I am concerned, our police officers are overqualified to end up providing a shuttle service for prisoners.

I urge the Solicitor General to meet with the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) and the Minister of Correctional Services (Mr. Ramsay) and devise an alternative method for transporting prisoners between our jails and courts. Perhaps they could consider using police officers who are retiring from the force but who want to continue putting in a few hours each day the courts are in session. I think this would prove to be less costly and I believe it would free up police officers who have more important things to do than providing a shuttle service for prisoners.

MEMBER FOR CORNWALL

Ms. Collins: I stand today to recognize an outstanding act of courage by one of our own. On December 23, 1988, just two days before Christmas, at approximately 1:10 in the afternoon, Shirley Ingola was on the second floor of her home when she noticed the floor warming beneath her feet. She came downstairs to find her wood stove glowing red and the ceiling and walls blazing.

Our colleague came rushing to Mrs. Ingola's aid as she fled from her fiery home. She was in shock and wanted to return to the house. Our colleague, with no thought for his own safety, went into the blazing house, found the family dog and safely returned the pooch to its owner waiting outside.

Tom Hughes, president of the Ontario Humane Society, was visiting the area at the time of the fire and he read about this selfless act when it appeared the next day on the front page of the local paper. Mr. Hughes returned to Toronto, whereupon he brought the actions of our colleague to the attention of the executive committee of the society. He recommended that an award be given, and a motion was passed unanimously.

The award plaque to be presented this Sunday will read: "An award of bravery is presented to John Cleary for saving the life of an animal

without consideration of personal safety or wellbeing."

I commend the honourable member for Cornwall (Mr. Cleary) for this act of personal bravery and I ask all members in the House to join me in congratulating him.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: John, maybe you can save the Tories now.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

CAMBRIDGE INDUSTRIAL TRAINING COMMITTEE

Mr. Farnan: Today, I wish to pay tribute to the Cambridge Industrial Training Committee. This is a committee of volunteers with representatives from business; from labour, employers and employees, and from education.

Together they evaluate the growth of our community and look for areas in which training will benefit employers and employees.

After identifying areas of opportunity, the committee endeavours to make programs available through Ontario's Ministry of Skills Development and the Department of Employment and Immigration. These programs benefit employees by providing easier access to training and to employers by providing funds to help them put training plans in place.

By providing opportunities to refine skills and to learn new skills, by assisting older laid-off workers and women to gain marketable skills and by encouraging young people to consider a career in the skilled trades, the Cambridge Industrial Training Committee is playing a key role in securing the economic and industrial future of Cambridge in the area of Canada's technology triangle.

The Cambridge Industrial Training Committee recognizes that our greatest resource and our greatest asset is a well-trained and skilled workforce. New tools, methods and technologies are available to all. However, we can compete only when we can demonstrate that we have a workforce with the right training.

On behalf of all the citizens of Cambridge, I applaud and commend the volunteers of the Cambridge Industrial Training Committee. Their contribution is essential to our future and deserves generous support from the provincial Ministry of Skills Development.

FIREFIGHTING

Mr. Pollock: During the estimates of the Ministry of Natural Resources, the minister was questioned regarding the reduction of fire-crew

size from six members down to three and whether there would be an overall reduction in the total number of firefighters. While the answer from the minister and his officials at that time was that we "might be increasing our number of firefighters," today our worst fears appear to be true.

From information that I have received, it appears that the minister is intending to reduce fire-crew personnel by 46 per cent in the Algonquin region and that the reduction may in fact be continued across many of the ministry's districts and perhaps across the entire province.

True to the form of this government, the minister is also intending to pass some of the responsibility of fighting forest fires on to the municipalities by using members of the local fire department for auxiliary crews. I am sure that the minister realizes that fire departments in rural areas are mostly entirely volunteer fire departments. To expect these dedicated individuals, who so freely give of their time, to take on this task which belongs rightfully to the minister is absurd.

Why does the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) not live up to the commitment he gave during estimates, stop passing the buck on to municipalities and stop threatening the forest resources of our province?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

CITIZENSHIP

Mr. Matrondola: In view of the fact that a great number of immigrants of advanced age who have resided in Canada for many years wish to participate more fully in our society, including participating in elections; and

In view of the fact that these seniors are unable to do so because they are not Canadian citizens and many of them have great difficulty in acquiring the required level of language skills because they are unable to attend classes or may feel intimidated to be tested; and

In view of the fact that the federal government, in its 1987 discussion paper entitled Proud to be Canadian suggested amendments to the Citizenship Act which would promote citizenship among senior newcomers by lowering or removing barriers for those over 60 years of age,

I would therefore urge the government of Ontario to request that the government of Canada amend the Citizenship Act as follows:

"Any landed immigrant who resides in Canada for at least 10 years and is of at least 60 years of age may become a Canadian citizen upon summary application, by paying the required fee

and attending the swearing-in ceremony. This would waive the language and studying requirements. Also, since at 60 years of age, they qualify as senior citizens they would pay only 50 per cent of the applicable fees.

"Anyone wishing to become a Canadian citizen in less than 10 years, or who is less than 60 years old, shall follow the present routine."

This will facilitate the obtaining of Canadian citizenship for senior citizens who wish to participate more fully in our democratic process and hence make a contribution to Canada.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Cambridge for 40 seconds.

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AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Mr. Farnan: I would like to read a quote from a letter I received from a Cambridge resident.

"Dear Mike,

"Never mind that three days before the last provincial election David Peterson said in Cambridge, 'I have a specific plan to lower insurance rates.' He had no plan. There never was a plan. What Peterson said about auto insurance was just another promise. I wonder how many people were suckered in and voted for the Liberals thinking they were going to pay less for their auto insurance.

"I have been around for a while now and I've got an idea how this system works. First, they scare us by suggesting a possible 40 per cent premium increase. Then they expect us to be dancing in the street when they tell us that the increase is only 15 to 20 per cent. Maybe now they will realize that you don't trust a Liberal.

"Happy driving,

"Ross Adshade, Cambridge."

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

TRIPARTITE STABILIZATION PLANS

Hon. Mr. Riddell: It gives me great pleasure to announce that this morning, Ontario was the first province to sign new amendments to the national tripartite stabilization plans for hogs, sheep and beef cattle.

As members know, tripartite stabilization programs are funded equally by the federal government, participating provincial governments and producers. The plans provide payments to producers in times of low market prices.

The amendments I signed today represent a truly co-operative effort. The federal government, national and provincial producer associations and representatives from all provincial governments worked together for over two years

to improve the plans. The amendments will go a long way to create the level playing field that red-meat producers across Canada have asked for and which we have now achieved. There will be a firm upper limit on the benefits which both levels of government can offer to red-meat producers.

I anticipate that all the provinces will be signing some or all of the agreements over the next few days. In November 1985, Ontario was the first province to sign the original agreements and initiate tripartite stabilization plans for red meats in Canada. These original agreements were the first steps in bringing greater discipline into the Canadian marketplace for red meats.

Over the years, this government has consulted fully with representatives of the red-meat producer groups and has kept them fully informed of developments as they have occurred. I am very pleased that these amended agreements have the full support of the national and provincial red-meat commodity organizations.

Under the present plans, estimated payouts for Ontario producers enrolled in the program in the fourth quarter of 1988 are: \$30 million for hogs, \$8 million for slaughter and feeder cattle and \$39,000 for lambs.

The effectiveness of existing plans reaffirms my belief in the partnership of governments and producer groups and their ability to develop national safety-net programs.

SMALL BUSINESS

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: On behalf of my ministry I am pleased to announce that the 1988 report on the small business sector in the province is now available. This report, entitled *The State of Small Business*, provides insight into emerging trends and the most recent statistics on growth and job creation.

It was produced for the committee of parliamentary assistants for small business, which is chaired by the member for Mississauga West (Mr. Mahoney). It demonstrates the high growth potential of small business, identifies issues which limit future expansion and points the way to remedial action.

Small business is the single most important employer in Ontario and in Canada. Today, nearly a third of new businesses are headed by women and an increasing number of young people are looking at business ownership as a career. Small business flourishes in areas that require a high level of specialization and customer service and a quick response to market changes.

The report also contains sections on the integration of technology in production, government procurement, exporting, government and nongovernment sources of debt and equity financing and entrepreneurial education in Ontario's schools. In addition, this year's report features a small business owners' guide which gives entrepreneurs practical information on business ownership, sales to government, financing and exporting.

This comprehensive report shows the crucial role small business plays in the economic life of the province. It also points to the issues which currently pose a challenge to future growth.

POLICE WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION

Hon. Mrs. Smith: Recently I indicated to the House that my officials had been instructed by me to conduct a survey of police forces in Ontario to determine whether the ammunition used by the police officers was in conformity with police regulations.

My officials conducted a survey of all 121 police forces in Ontario. I wish to inform the House that all police forces confirmed that the ammunition used by their police officers conforms with police regulations on the use of ammunition. All police forces confirmed that ammunition issued to police officers for normal purposes was factory-loaded solid bullet of lead alloy of semiwad cutter configuration, as prescribed by the regulations.

As members are aware, regulations also permit the commissioner of the Ontario Provincial Police or the chief of police of a municipal police force to authorize for a special purpose the use of ammunition other than the type prescribed by the regulation.

The survey also confirmed that, in the case of 11 police forces, hollow-point ammunition was authorized for special purposes such as target practice and by tactical units.

I would further like to inform the House that I have forwarded the information to the Firearms Equipment Advisory Committee which is looking at the suitability of ammunition now being issued to police officers, and to the committee looking at the use of force by tactical units which is chaired by Douglas Drinkwater, chairman of the Ontario Police Commission.

I have asked both of these committees to consider this information before making their recommendations to me.

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Hon. Mr. Elston: The efficient and economic delivery of automobile insurance to the citizens

of Ontario is an important social and economic priority of this government. The government is committed to moderating the cost of insurance premiums, increasing efficiencies within the insurance industry, and providing for fairer treatment for all drivers in the province.

I have been strengthened in my commitment to these goals by the many comments I have received from the public and by the many concerns I heard expressed in the recent rate hearings of the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board. There is no doubt in my mind that the public is seeking substantial improvement in the delivery of automobile insurance.

The Ministry of Financial Institutions has been busy examining a range of new alternatives designed to achieve the objectives of this government. It is clear from the work of the ministry that the cost of automobile insurance is directly related to the occurrence of accidents and the amount of compensation paid out for bodily injury and economic loss. The number of claims is increasing dramatically, and the per claim cost is rising at twice the rate of inflation. The volume of traffic in Ontario continues to mount as a result of our economic and population growth. The consequence is more accidents and injury claims, and more costly settlements.

I wish to inform the House today that I am requesting the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board to hold public hearings on certain issues relating to two specific alternative systems of automobile insurance.

The first alternative is a threshold no-fault system of car insurance. Under this system, victims of accidents would receive the benefits of income replacement and medical rehabilitation, with death benefits to dependants in the case of fatalities, without the need for litigation. In addition, in cases of serious injury, often called the threshold, victims would be able to sue for compensation for pain and suffering. As claims for pain and suffering now constitute 45 per cent of all bodily injury claims, elimination of litigation in cases not involving serious injury should reduce insurance costs overall, even with no-fault compensation to injured parties.

I might note that a number of American states have implemented variations of the threshold no-fault insurance system, including New York and Michigan.

The second alternative is a choice system, giving drivers an option between forms of no-fault and fault insurance. Under this system, drivers could choose a less costly no-fault policy offering compensation for economic loss, but

without the right to receive compensation for pain and suffering. Alternatively, a driver could choose a fault-based policy having existing no-fault benefits and the right to further recovery through litigation for both economic loss and pain and suffering, provided the policyholder is not at fault.

Each of these alternatives, the system based on threshold no-fault and the system based on choice between no-fault and fault, holds out considerable promise of obtaining a better balance between premium costs and benefits to injured claimants.

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The automobile insurance board will be asked to report the result of its inquiries to me by this summer. I wish to emphasize that the board is not being invited to make a choice or even a recommendation between the two systems. The government will have the responsibility of determining whether or not to go ahead with either of these two alternatives.

The questions that the government will be asking of the board will involve the following: a detailed analysis of the potential savings to consumers under the two alternative systems; consideration of practical concerns arising from administration of either system, and anticipated levels of recovery of benefits by victims of automobile accidents under either system.

In addition, my colleagues and I will be announcing shortly measures designed to strengthen consumer protection, increase driver education and improve highway safety.

TORT REFORM

Hon. Mr. Scott: I am pleased to advise the House today about a number of initiatives I intend to take with respect to tort reform in Ontario.

The government has received very thoughtful and thorough comments on the subject of tort reform from both the Ontario Law Reform Commission in its report on compensation and from Mr. Justice Osborne in his report on motor vehicle accident compensation in Ontario. Both reports expressed confidence in the existing system for the compensation of those who have suffered personal injuries.

However, the tort system can be fine-tuned and therefore made better, fairer and more efficient in its treatment of those who have suffered injuries. I therefore propose to undertake reform in five specific areas: (1) the entitlement of prejudgement interest on damage awards; (2) the use of structured settlements; (3)

the efficiency of the litigation process; (4) the use of advance payments by insurers, and (5) with respect to the further development of alternative dispute resolution for no-fault accident benefits.

I would like to take a moment to briefly describe the thrust of these intended reforms and comment on the reason these reforms are being undertaken.

With respect to prejudgement interest, a plaintiff who has advanced a claim for financial loss and pain and suffering is entitled to what is known as prejudgement interest on the amount awarded to compensate him or her for the loss of the use of that money pending judgement. The amendments I propose to bring forward will expand the availability of prejudgement interest in the sense that interest would run from the date the injury was suffered rather than the date the plaintiff gave notice.

This change was recommended both by the Osborne commission and the Ontario Law Reform Commission. The rate of interest would be the bank rate, which, at least in the case of pain and suffering awards, would approximate more closely the real rate of return. The changes will inject prejudgement interest calculations with more fairness, neutrality and predictability.

Mr. B. Rae: Look up, Ian. The camera's got a shine on your forehead. He hasn't got his glasses on.

Hon. Mr. Scott: I could read in here what I really thought of the Leader of the Opposition and no one would ever notice.

With respect to structured settlements, the court must in some cases increase the amount of a damage award to enable a plaintiff with sufficient funds to pay income tax. A device known as a structured settlement can avoid this situation. However, in the current system, a structured settlement is only available where both the plaintiff and defendant consent. The amendments I propose to bring forward would give the court the discretion to impose a structured settlement on the parties in appropriate circumstances.

The third area of reform concerns improvements to the litigation process. I have asked the rules committee of the Supreme and district courts to consider a number of proposed amendments to the rules of civil procedure that would facilitate the courts' ability to process claims concerning bodily injury. In addition, changes to the Evidence Act and the Courts of Justice Act will be undertaken to facilitate the use of medical expert evidence at trial and to permit the trial

judge to offer guidance to juries in assessing the amount of damage awards.

Fourth, the Insurance Act currently provides insurers with the ability to make advance payments to plaintiffs in certain circumstances before a court determination of liability. Advance payments facilitate settlement and reduce the need to pay prejudgement interest on a plaintiff's claim. I propose to bring forward amendments that would encourage an insurer to make such advance payments in proper cases.

Finally, alternative dispute resolution is in many jurisdictions a growing and integral component of the system for resolving disputes between insureds and their own insurer over accident benefit claims that should be provided quickly on a no-fault basis. I am establishing a committee of experts to inquire into the potential role and function of alternative dispute resolution in this field. The goal of the committee is to provide me with a model proposal for the arbitration and/or mediation of disputes between insureds and insurers.

The reforms I have announced today follow upon the recommendations of Mr. Justice Osborne and the Ontario Law Reform Commission. Both studies have contributed greatly to our ability to further improve the tort system for the people of the province.

Mr. Speaker: Are there any other ministerial statements?

Hon. Mr. Scott: Now, Bob, it will soon be your turn to speak. He practises all the way through statements. Yak, yak, yak.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I understood there were no more statements. Responses. The Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. B. Rae: First of all, I want to respond to the statement that was made by the Solicitor General (Mrs. Smith)—

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Look up, Bob, look up.

Mr. B. Rae: I am looking very directly at the Treasurer as I speak.

Hon. Mr. Scott: Who's on your committee, Bob?

Mr. B. Rae: I don't have a committee.

Hon. Mr. Scott: Speak up. Use the teleprompter. Keep your forehead down. Yak, yak, yak. Speak up, Bob.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: I remind all members—order. The Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. B. Rae: I can understand why the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) is so sensitive this

week. If he wants to take it out on me, that is okay. I do not mind. He cannot beat up on anyone else these days. He cannot take it out on private clients any more, so he has to take it out on the rest of the province. I do not mind.

RESPONSES

POLICE WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION

Mr. B. Rae: If I might comment on the statement made by the Solicitor General (Mrs. Smith) with respect to the use of hollow-point bullets, there is a certain implausibility to the whole process which the Solicitor General has gone through. If she does a survey in which she asks the chief of police in each municipality to tell her whether to the best of his knowledge there has been a breach of the regulations, it is sort of like saying, "Has anybody here broken the law?" and the answer comes back, "No, ma'am, nobody here has broken the law."

The whole process has an element of implausibility to it, which I am sure the Solicitor General understands, in terms of the common sense of what the problem has been out there with respect to the use of hollow-point bullets. If she is trying to find out whether there has been a specific breach of the regulations, she should not go around asking police chiefs whether that in fact has happened, because that is a statement on their part of their own liability. She has to find out by other means. So I say to the Solicitor General that this whole process has been something of a joke.

We may find out in the course of trials whether it is the case that hollow-point ammunition was authorized only for special purposes such as target practice and for tactical units or whether those are the only circumstances in which it has been used. I think the Solicitor General should be aware of that.

TORT REFORM

Mr. B. Rae: With respect to the comments made by the Attorney General (Mr. Scott), I can only say that they are astonishingly conservative and astonishingly slow in terms of what he has proposed.

His own party has talked at various conventions about the need for a comprehensive sickness and accident program which would eliminate the domination of the ancient tort system over the citizens of this province. It is a system which does not compensate people fairly and leaves hundreds of thousands of people who are sick and ill out in the cold without any kind of compensation.

To simply tinker with and fine-tune a tort system, which, I am sure the Attorney General would agree, most observers feel is in desperate need not simply of minor reform but indeed of a major transformation, is an astonishing disappointment.

I might also add that even though the Attorney General has made the announcement with respect to all the things that are going to happen, we do not have the laws or bills in place which he says are going to be in place. What he is announcing is intended reforms that may or may not come one day. That is just not good enough.

1400

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Mr. Farnan: On Monday, the new Liberal auto insurance tax comes into effect. This is in direct contradiction of the promise made to the people of Ontario when the Premier (Mr. Peterson) said he had a specific plan to reduce insurance rates.

What we heard from the Minister of Financial Institutions (Mr. Elston) today was simply an exercise in damage control. Basically, there is no reference at all to a driver-owned auto insurance plan, which is the real solution to auto insurance in this province.

The Liberals have failed the voters of Ontario. In the words of the Premier, "We have a specific plan." There is no specific plan. The people of Ontario were simply misled by the Premier. It is a broken promise.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Cambridge accused another member of misleading. Will you withdraw?

Mr. Farnan: I will withdraw the remark, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I appreciate your withdrawing.

Mr. Farnan: I am just sorry that the people of Ontario were told there was a specific plan.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Would the member show some respect for the chair?

Mr. Mackenzie: It is difficult when you have a Premier like we have.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I asked the member to withdraw. The member withdrew. Thank you.

TRIPARTITE STABILIZATION PLANS

Mr. Villeneuve: Following the strong leadership shown by the federal Progressive Conservative government in Ottawa, Ontario saw fit to sign the amendments to the national tripartite stabilization plans for hogs, sheep and beef

cattle. We thank the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) for having seen the light.

Over the years, this government has said that it has consulted fully with representatives of the red meat producers. I recall distinctly this time last year when the free trade agreement was being discussed. If the government was consulting, it was certainly not listening, just as happened in committee on Bill 113 and Bill 114: consulting but not listening.

Yes, we needed tripartite stabilization and we needed strong leadership at the federal level, which we now have. The government has seen fit to follow, and thank goodness for that.

However, there are some other things that need to be looked at in agriculture. A 60 per cent reduction in the Ontario family farm interest rate reduction program is ridiculous when times are pretty tough out in agriculture. The government saw fit to reduce it by 60 per cent. The Ontario farm management, safety and repairs program worked very well. The government let it run out of money and did not replace it. Ontario Farm-Start, supposedly lasting for five years, did not last six months. It ran out of funds. The crop insurance program needs to be completely redone and revitalized.

We will have strong leadership at the federal level. I hope the government follows them there.

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

TORT REFORM

Mr. Sterling: The announcements by the Minister of Financial Institutions (Mr. Elston) and the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) are nothing but an advanced apology for the rate increase that thousands of Ontarians are going to receive next Monday. This is an attempt by this government to hide the fact of what is going to happen in practical cents and dollars to each and every car owner on Monday.

The leader of the New Democratic Party said that these proposals are conservative, and that is true in two ways. In one way, as he drew forward, they are perhaps too mild in their scope; but the second way is also true: These proposals have been put forward by the member for Leeds-Grenville (Mr. Runciman) on a number of occasions, as far back as a year or two ago. Therefore, we now have a government dragging along behind and trying to gain some prospect in terms of offering these reforms.

I note from the reforms announced today that the government has not announced that it is actually going to do anything other than set up committees, hearings, etc. I refer to page 3 of the

Attorney General's report where he says that he asked the rules committee to look at some proposals with regard to civil procedures. He also says that he is proposing to bring forward amendments and that he is going to establish a committee to look into the potential role and function of alternative dispute resolution in this field.

In other words, we have a government which is not ready to act even yet, even though it said in the past that it had a plan. They do not even have the plan today. All they have is another method of setting up more hearings to establish what, in fact, they are going to do at some time in the future.

POLICE WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION

Mr. Harris: Briefly, in response to the statement of the Solicitor General (Mrs. Smith), I would like to concur with the remarks made by the leader of the New Democratic Party and simply add that clearly the former Solicitor General, the member for Kingston and The Islands (Mr. Keyes), knows far more even after this so-called study that the minister has talked about or the survey she has talked about. He clearly knew far more back then when he was minister, and does even now, about what is going on with the use of ammunition in the police forces.

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

TORT REFORM

Mr. Harris: I too want to congratulate the member for Leeds-Grenville (Mr. Runciman) for his efforts that have led to both the statements that have been made today by the two ministers involved with insurance. I would point out that our party and the member for Leeds-Grenville talked about the auto repair industry as well. We see nothing coming forward in that area.

Finally, I too remind this House that the Premier (Mr. Peterson) stated that he had a plan. Clearly, a year and a half later, he is wallowing around with a bunch of proposals that are still going out to study.

ORAL QUESTIONS

POLICE TREATMENT OF VISIBLE MINORITIES

Mr. B. Rae: I have a question for the Premier. The mayor of Toronto yesterday spoke about the need for greater understanding with respect to race relations in the city and complained about the actions of certain police officials and police

officers with respect to the black community. The Premier has certainly spoken out with respect to the opinions of Professor Rushton.

I would like to ask the Premier about his views of one of his own appointees and colleagues and members of the Liberal Party, who was appointed by him to be the spokesman for the government of Ontario, the representative for the Liberal government on the Metropolitan Board of Commissioners of Police. I am referring, of course, to June Rowlands.

I wonder if the Premier could comment on the views of June Rowlands as they were expressed to the Clare Lewis task force on Tuesday when she said that while the majority of the members of the black community are good citizens, "There is a sector of youth that's out of control within that black community. There's no question about it and they're causing a lot of problems."

The Toronto Star said, "When questioned if it's any different from the white community, she said, 'I think at this point that there is a problem within a certain sector of youth within the black community.'"

I wonder if the Premier can tell us whether June Rowlands is reflecting the views of the government with respect to a sector of the black community that is out of control.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I cannot speak for the views of Ms. Rowlands in this matter. As the member knows, a number of people are speaking to the Lewis task force with their own views on this situation. Obviously, it is a very troublesome one, and we are looking forward to the views of Mr. Lewis as he gathers up ideas and talks to the various communities. I do not want to say that we subscribe to any particular view that is being put before the Lewis commission. Each will make his or her own views felt.

Mr. B. Rae: I am quite surprised that the Premier, who has been quite prepared to talk about how, for example, if he were in a position to do something, he would have fired Professor Rushton who has certain theories about races and about their relative superiority and inferiority, views which I am sure are repugnant to the vast majority of citizens in this province and certainly to those of us in this party, would not have something very direct to say about somebody he appointed whom he is in a very direct position to fire, if that is what he would choose to do.

Can I ask the Premier why he would not dismiss somebody who is speaking on behalf of the Metropolitan Toronto Police Commission and would single out a certain sector of black youth in the black community as being out of

control and responsible for crime in the city of Toronto?

1410

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The member opposite is right; the government appointed Ms. Rowlands to that position and we expect her and every other appointee to exercise real sensitivity in dealing with these kinds of matters.

I say to my honourable friend that I am not in a position either to justify or to not justify it, but her contribution to the community has been a good one, I think. I am hoping that as a result of the Lewis task force there will be some very serious ideas that can be presented for discussion here and throughout the entire community.

Mr. B. Rae: The Premier has said we should all display sensitivity. I think the Premier would agree that at the very least, Ms. Rowlands has not done that in this case. This statement is profoundly counterproductive, unhelpful and raises a great many questions in my mind as to her appropriateness in that office. I would like to ask the Premier why he would not dismiss June Rowlands from the police commission as the representative of the people of Ontario on that commission.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I have not seen behaviour that I think warrants that, at this point. Obviously, it is a situation that requires a great deal of sensitivity and she has a responsibility to the community to make sure that our police forces are sensitized to some of these realities. I am sure that when the Lewis task force comes down, his words will be taken very seriously.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Mr. B. Rae: I have a question for the Minister of Health. On December 15, the minister announced that the special authorization program would come to an end as of April 1 and that a special committee would be established to review all drugs with respect to the new Drug Benefit Formulary as of July 1, 1989. My staff has spoken with the officials within the drug benefit plan and they have confirmed that all special authorization prescriptions are, according to them, only valid until March 31.

I would like to give the minister one example in terms of what impact this cancellation of special authorization is going to have on patients in this province. There is a young boy whose name is Christian Gerrion. Christian was born with very small kidneys. He is at home but is being cared for at the Hospital for Sick Children. He must have liquid vitamins included with his formula and nutrition. These liquid vitamins are

not included in the drug formulary and the cost of these vitamins alone is about \$100 per month. He also has to take Polycose powder, which is on special authorization and costs about \$25 per month.

Mr. Speaker: The question?

Mr. B. Rae: The question I have for the minister is this: When she made her announcement on December 15 that all special authorizations would end as of March 31—

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Read the statement.

Mr. B. Rae: That is how it is being interpreted by her staff; that is what her staff is saying.

Mr. Speaker: Put your question.

Mr. B. Rae: I would like to ask the minister, did she not realize the impact this was going to have on literally thousands of patients across the province with respect to their having to pick up drug costs of \$400 and \$500 per month?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The facts of the matter are that in December, I announced we were reforming the special authorization process as recommended by the Lowy inquiry. The goal is to ensure that drugs provided through the program are effective in improving health and contributing to quality of life.

Mr. B. Rae: The minister is responsible for enormous confusion right now out there in the health care system. She may not be aware of it, but we have become aware of it and it is causing real problems.

I have referred to the example of this young child with kidney failure. Perhaps I could refer the minister to the example of acquired immune deficiency syndrome patients. Most AIDS patients may be prescribed acyclovir through special authorizations. It otherwise costs \$1 a capsule; with patients taking as many as 12 a day, that would be a monthly cost of \$400. Many AIDS patients also take Ensure, which is a caloric-rich protein nutritional supplement that comes in cans. A case of 12 cans costs \$30 and patients may use up to three a day.

When the minister made her announcement of the end of all these prescriptions effective March 31, 1989, which is precisely how it is being interpreted by her own minister, by her own staff and by people out in the field, did she not realize the impact this was going to have on literally thousands of patients who are going to see their bills go up this much?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Let me correct the Leader of the Opposition by reading into the record exactly what I said in that statement, "I will...ask the Drug Quality and Therapeutics Committee to

examine all drugs now available by special authorization, to assess their therapeutic effectiveness and to recommend whether they should be included in the July 1989 formulary."

Between March 31 and July 1, the drugs will continue to be available if the DQTC recommends they should be included in the July formulary. The DQTC has from January 1 until April 1 to review the drugs presently available. It is very clear to them, I am stating here today in this House, that these assessments are being made by the experts on the Drug Quality and Therapeutics Committee and that no one will be deprived of effective drugs who is presently receiving them under the Ontario drug benefit plan.

This is a reform that has been proposed by the Lowy drug inquiry and which, I suggest to the Leader of the Opposition, he agreed was long overdue.

Mr. B. Rae: I do not think the minister knows what is going on. Let's look at the time frame here. She is asking the drug quality committee to assess 1,600 drugs that are now being used under special authorization. She is in effect saying that all these prescriptions are going to end as of March 31 unless they advise people that their drug in fact is okay. That date is not established until the July formulary, so we have no way of knowing what is going to happen as of April 1 to those 1,600 drugs and the thousands of patients who are taking any one of those 1,600 drugs.

I can tell the minister that there are hundreds, indeed thousands of patients who are confused because their doctors do not know what is allowed and what is not allowed. They do not know who is going to pay or when they are going to pay. They do not know what is authorized and when it is not authorized.

Mr. Speaker: The question?

Mr. B. Rae: There is massive confusion out there. For at least three or four months people are going to be in limbo, paying as much as \$2,000 for that period because those drugs are not included on the July 1 formulary.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Let me clarify this for the Leader of the Opposition. As of January 1, any new drug would have to be added on the advice of the expert Drug Quality and Therapeutics Committee. Between January 1 and April 1, the drugs are being assessed by that committee. It can give me its advice by April 1 as to which drugs have been reviewed and determined should be included in the July 1 formulary. It has not completed its review and requires additional time to review them before it says whether they will be included

in a formulary in the future, and which it believes are not effective and should not be included.

The special authorization program is being reformed to ensure that any of the drugs available under special authorization will result in the very best therapeutic results for the people receiving them. I ask for the member's support in the reform of this. I appreciate the opportunity to clarify for him and for everyone else that no one will be deprived of therapeutically effective drugs as this program is being reformed.

NATIONAL SALES TAX

Mr. Harris: I have a question to the next chairman of Ontario Hydro or the next agent general—

Mr. Speaker: And your question is to which minister?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The current Treasurer?
1420

Mr. Harris: I read with interest in the clippings of the Toronto Star, January 15, reports of the Treasurer's statement, "Ontario will likely merge its existing sales tax system with a new national federal tax." The federal Minister of Finance is on record, and he is the only one so far on record, as unequivocally saying that any new national sales tax will be revenue neutral.

Will the Treasurer make the same commitment to the people of Ontario that if Ontario goes along, as the Treasurer has indicated he would like to do, with a new national sales tax plan, the Ontario tax portion of that will be revenue neutral for Ontario taxpayers?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: In response to the honourable gentleman who is running behind Tom Long in the leadership race of the third party, I want to say that asking about revenue for the Treasury of Ontario from the national sales tax is totally hypothetical. There has been no decision made whether we will participate as active partners in that tax.

If he really means, would there be some additional revenue if the national sales tax were imposed, as his party has announced it intends to do at the federal level, there might be a very small increase in revenue on the basis that our eight per cent sales tax would be applied on some goods where the federal sales tax of 12 per cent now is not applicable. There might be a minor increase in that respect. But if he is asking me about the application of the national sales tax through enactment in this House, that is hypothetical and no decision has been made.

Mr. Harris: I find it ironic that only the federal Progressive Conservative Party has stood up and said, "We want to reform the tax system; we like the national sales tax plan," as did the other two parties in the House of Commons. Clearly, the Treasurer said he was supportive of that concept and thought it was a good way to go. He is on record three or four times as having said that.

We all understand that the concept is to broaden the base. If you are then going to be revenue neutral, you must reduce the rate. I find it ironic that only Michael Wilson has said, "This reform is to broaden the base, lower the rate and put more fairness in, and I will guarantee that it will be revenue neutral." I do not know why the Treasurer cannot make that guarantee to the people of Ontario.

Mr. Speaker: Is that your question?

Mr. Harris: Since the Treasurer does not seem to be prepared to make that guarantee, I would like to ask him if he is still of the view, as he was at the Empire Club two years ago, that if he joins the national sales tax on behalf of the government of Ontario, the possibility of a lower sales tax rate for Ontario is a very real possibility and he will in fact follow through on that.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I simply say again that Ontario has made no decision in this respect. We have no details from the government of Canada. Frankly, I would expect that when Mr. Wilson meets Parliament again when it resumes later in the spring, he may be making some announcements in that regard.

One thing is sure: If the finance critic of the third party is under the impression that the national sales tax, as described by the Minister of Finance of Canada, is revenue neutral, he is wrong. All he has to do is read the statement made by the Minister of Finance himself. He said it would be revenue neutral over the whole tax spectrum of the federal jurisdiction.

Certainly, if you apply a sales tax at somewhere between eight and 10 per cent, which is what he said in his white paper, to all goods and services except groceries, pharmaceuticals and one or two other minor items, the revenue will be substantially larger than that returned by the present tax system.

I am not being unfair in any way to the Minister of Finance, because he said the neutrality will lie over the whole system. I do not think I am being unfair to the questioner when I say he obviously does not understand how the tax that has been described by his party federally would work.

Mr. Harris: Clearly, I do understand. Clearly, I said the commitment he made was that over the whole spectrum he would guarantee the new proposals would result in revenue-neutral total taxation. He made that commitment and the Treasurer refused to make it. Those clearly are the facts on those two, and I do not understand why.

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. Harris: By way of final supplementary, let me tell the Treasurer that every member on this side of the House was astonished to learn in his January 15 musings of his concern about the possible impact of a national sales tax on new home buyers. He said that was one of the great concerns he had and that would have to be resolved before he would agree to participate.

For the Treasurer who hiked the land transfer tax—the last budget added \$3,000 to the cost of a new house—whose government has been accused of profiteering on the housing market and who is now proposing a lot levy that could drive up house prices by an additional \$5,000 to \$10,000, this new-found concern for home buyers—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Does the member have a question?

Mr. Harris: Yes, I do, Mr. Speaker.

—represents a conversion we do not understand. Perhaps it came about on his last European junket. I ask the Treasurer, given that his record and the government's record and their credibility is zero on that concern—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Order.

Mr. Harris: —will he now guarantee in this House that he will rethink his ridiculous proposal for a sales—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Would the member take his seat.

Mr. Harris: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order; the Treasurer.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I am trying to discern where there is a question in that spontaneous outpouring of enthusiasm from the honourable member. I can simply reiterate the commitment that I, as Treasurer, have made, supported by the Premier (Mr. Peterson) and all my colleagues, that we will continue to pay the bills of the province on a tax base that demonstrates fairness and equity for all and that is substantially supported by the right-thinking taxpayers of this jurisdiction.

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Mrs. Cunningham: My question is for the Minister of Community and Social Services. On

January 16, the minister stated with regard to the Social Assistance Review Committee recommendations that opportunity planning and disincentives for the disabled and single parents going back to work are the two areas of priority that he would like to see implemented from the Transitions report.

What we really need is a blueprint with a cost-benefit analysis and we expect him to address the total report. Are we just going to get a reference to only two parts of this report or is he going to address a total overhaul of this archaic social assistance system when he makes his report?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: My recollection of the honourable member's previous question was to invite me to give her a list of my priorities, which I did. I at no time suggested in giving those priorities that we were unconcerned about all of the other elements of the report. As a matter of fact, I have said on a number of occasions that the report has a wholeness to it that has to be taken altogether, but again, if she asked me what parts of it I think we should move on most quickly because it will most impact the largest number of people, it is the ones I mentioned.

Mrs. Cunningham: I thank the minister very much for that clarification because the public attitude, I suppose because of the question I asked him, is that the government is not prepared to overhaul the social assistance system. Now he has reassured all of us that he is. Now that we know better, my question is, when will he be making this announcement?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: I believe that on previous occasions I have indicated there will be some indication of the direction we will be going in in either or both of the throne speech or the budget speech.

1430

Mrs. Cunningham: It seems to me we are approaching the six months mark since the report was released. I would like to make an observation to the minister. In the 1988-89 estimates, the Social Assistance Review Board budget increased by more than 50 per cent. It went from some \$2.3 million to \$4 million. We all know that poor people appeal decisions this government makes for two reasons: either they are not making enough money or because of the unfairness in the system. We were advised by the Social Assistance Review Committee that those two things happened: The benefit structure was not adequate and, in fact, there is unfairness in the system.

My question, therefore, and this is what we are facing on a day-to-day basis now, is: Does the minister prefer to put our tax dollars towards the bureaucratic costs such as the Social Assistance Review Board, or is he prepared now to bite the bullet and not wait longer than six months, which is another week from now, and put our tax dollars into a benefit structure that will help poor people in this province?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: I would suggest to the honourable member that we are talking about two very different things. When I became minister, one of the priority issues brought to my attention was the great concern expressed by people all across the province, both within and without my ministry, about the efficacy of the then existing Social Assistance Review Board and the kinds of changes that absolutely had to be made in that board, because it was a fundamental component of justice in this province; that if my ministry officials or municipal officials were making decisions about people's incomes there had to be a totally independent and functioning and effective board to which they could appeal.

That is what we have done. We have put a new chairman in place. We have put full-time people there. We have given them legal resources. We have given them clerical resources. Two thirds of the decisions are in favour of the clients. All of that has been improved dramatically. That is apart from the adequacy of the system itself, and must be considered apart from it.

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: I believe I did recognize the member for London North earlier. I will now recognize the member for Scarborough West.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I thought we were moving on to second supplementaries there.

TUITION FEES FOR REFUGEE CLAIMANTS

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I have a question for the Minister of Colleges and Universities about refugees. By law in this province the Ministry of Education gives access to our education system to any refugee child, at some considerable difficulty these days to the boards of education in Metropolitan Toronto. Her ministry, on the other hand, by law makes it very difficult for refugee children to attend post-secondary education.

Can the minister explain why it is that a young woman named Dhamayanthi Perairavan, who went to grade 13 in this province last year and received marks that would have made her an Ontario scholar, is having to pay the foreign student fee of \$10,000 to attend the University of

Toronto this year instead of the \$1,800 that any other Ontario resident would have to pay?

Hon. Mrs. McLeod: I can explain the reason a particular individual may have to pay the differential fee. That relates to the fact that while there is certainly no denial of access in terms of application to our post-secondary system, the policy has required that an individual have a hearing for convention refugee status in order to have a waiver of the differential fee. Otherwise, they are considered to be applicants of non-Ontario citizenship. Of course, once that hearing has taken place and refugee status is granted, that differential fee is waived.

At the same time, I also feel it is important to recognize that the very large backlog which has existed in having those hearings take place has created a problem. That is something we are very concerned about. With the new approaches by the federal government in this area, it is our hope that the backlog will be cleared and the concerns in this area will be alleviated.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The minister should know that this family has been in the country for a year and a half now. They had their interview a year ago tomorrow. They have still heard nothing. Three people in that family are working and paying taxes, including one sister who cannot afford to go to university at all, except that she is paying for two courses at \$1,000 each, again as a foreign student.

Can the minister tell us whether she is willing to bring in a program to reimburse these families who have been held up so long on these waiting lists once they receive refugee status, or is she going to continue to treat all refugees as second-class citizens, unlike our Ministry of Education, which opens its arms to them?

Hon. Mrs. McLeod: I can assure the honourable member and the members of this House that because we are concerned about the implications of our policy, and while it has been difficult to have an alternate policy under the current situation, we are in fact reviewing that policy. We are looking very carefully at changes in the federal legislation to see whether they alleviate the situation. We are also looking at whether that policy needs to be changed in relation to different points of access and whether to waive the differential fee. We will certainly undertake to look at specific concerns that arise because of this policy.

ASSISTANCE FOR DIABETICS

Mr. Eves: I have a question of the Minister of Health. As the minister is probably aware, in

1984, a four-year, \$2-million commitment was made to fund blood glucose monitors for diabetic patients. The program at that time just included children and was expanded in 1987 to include all diabetics, but no extra funds were allocated to the program at that time.

Of the original \$2-million commitment made in 1984, some \$264,000 was not spent in the first and second years. The ministry indicated it will not give the Canadian Diabetes Association the balance of the original commitment, even though the association has over \$160,000 in outstanding claims. That does not include claims that they have not taken since December 31. They had to suspend payment because they do not have the money.

My question to the minister is will she make the commitment today to fund the outstanding balance of the amount that was originally committed?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The Canadian Diabetes Association, in fact, runs a program to provide these monitors. The reality is and the facts are that the program was originally designed for children. The Canadian Diabetes Association informed the ministry that there were excess funds that were available, and the ministry permitted the Canadian Diabetes Association to expand its program within available funds. This is a question of program design, and we are reviewing that at the present time.

Mr. Eves: The minister is quite accurate in just about every respect. In fact, that is just what I said during my question. But the problem is the minister talks about preventive medicine and community-based health care. As she said, these monitors allow diabetics to test their own blood-sugar levels in their own homes. They allow diabetics to monitor the effectiveness of their diabetic controls, so they can adjust their insulin or see their doctor, if need be. It is an important preventive tool they can use to prevent some of the side effects of diabetes, such as kidney failure and blindness.

The Premier made a commitment to the Canadian Diabetes Association, the Ontario division, of which he is an honorary patron, I might add, on January 16 that it would get this money that had not been spent in the first two years. But the ministry officials, in a meeting on January 31, said they were not sure they could give it the money.

Will the minister make a commitment today, fulfil the commitment the Premier made on January 16, to provide that \$264,000?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The Canadian Diabetes Association has assured the ministry that adequate funds are available in this fiscal year to meet program needs.

FARM PRODUCTS MARKETING

Mr. McGuigan: My question is to the Minister of Agriculture and Food. Farmers in southwestern Ontario are making their plans now for their 1989 crops, and their marketing boards are entering negotiations with processors on price and terms and conditions of sale. They are understandably nervous in view of free trade now being a fact and in view of mergers they see in the beverage industry, which of course is part of the food industry.

They see, for instance, the claim by United States processors that ice cream is not a dairy product. Therefore, in their view, our market is open to US ice cream producers. To increase our options in marketing our products, can the minister tell us what his ministry is doing to promote Ontario's food products in world markets?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: In this brave new world of free trade, where there was supposed to be a harmonious relationship between the United States and Canada, we now find the swords are drawn. Canada and the United States are now taking each other to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade over the importation of such products as ice cream and yoghurt.

Mr. Villeneuve: What are you doing? We want to know what you are doing.

1440

Hon. Mr. Riddell: The very member who is interjecting, the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, is the one who supported free trade, despite the fact that it is going to cost the agriculture and food industry of this province \$100 million. The only thing that is going to save our industry is producing a superior quality product.

I am pleased to say that we are moving our superior products into other countries, amounting to about \$2.1 billion every year to the Ontario economy. My ministry has conducted 56 outgoing trade missions, promoting 37 different countries around the world in 1988. Seventy-seven Ontario companies participated in these international—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Supplementary.

Mr. McGuigan: A few months ago, I called the minister's office to get in touch with him. They said he was in Japan. I wonder if the

minister can tell us what happened on that particular visit.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: The honourable member is quite correct. I did accompany a trade mission to Japan, Hong Kong and South Korea early last year.

We learned that prospects for increased sales to these markets are excellent. Hong Kong imports almost 100 per cent of its food and Japan imports about 30 per cent of its food. It is a potential market for this country without question. The participating Ontario companies reported more than \$1 million in new sales to Japan, Hong Kong and Taiwan upon their return from this trade mission. As well, these companies reported that they could easily increase sales to that part of the world by 25 per cent in 1989.

This is just one example of our successes.

Mr. Brandt: You didn't have that answer written down, did you Jack?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: It's a lot better than shopping on Sunday in Port Huron, I tell you.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Members are wasting the time for others who would like to ask questions.

CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Mr. Farnan: I have a question to the Minister of Correctional Services. For several months, correctional officers have been protesting cutbacks in staffing and overcrowding in jails and detention centres. I draw to the minister's attention a recent incident at Metropolitan Toronto East Detention Centre where two officers were pulled off the floor, leaving one officer on night shift to cover a special needs area with 70 inmates. Some of these inmates were sharing cells and all could be classified as either potentially suicidal, in active psychotic states or as violent and aggressive individuals.

Can the minister explain how such a situation could occur just one year after the inquest into the death of Senior Cardinal, who committed suicide in the early hours of the morning, in which the coroner's jury recommended that additional staff be on duty at night? Will the minister recognize that the incident I have described is symptomatic of the dangerous situations in which we place correctional officers as a result of staff cutbacks?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I appreciate the question from my critic in the official opposition party and I will be happy to look into that occurrence for him.

Mr. Farnan: The minister claimed during the recent estimates debate that our institutions are

presently housing a much higher risk population than was the case just a few years ago. Contributing to this situation is the increasing number of inmates requiring psychiatric treatment. The minister should be aware that the majority of Workers' Compensation Board claims among correctional officers are usually in circumstances involving inmates in need of psychiatric care.

Will the minister recognize the fact that his policy of staff cutbacks and overcrowding puts correctional officers at risk? Because the injured officers are ending up on workers' compensation it is a policy that is not only dangerous, but also very expensive?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I would like to argue with my critic about the staffing arrangements in our institutions across the province. As I would hope the critic had remembered from our estimates, we have had an increase of 34 per cent of our correctional officers over the last five years in institutions while at the same time a very marginally small increase, around two per cent or three per cent, of people incarcerated in our system. We have really greatly increased the level of supervision of offenders in the Ontario situation.

Our job is to make sure that we manage a system across this province, and I think we are doing a good job of that.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Mr. Jackson: I have a question for the Minister of Health. Elizabeth Mussell is a young constituent of mine. She suffers from a very rare condition, which results in an excess of iron in her blood, a condition which her doctors say is fatal for her without proper treatment. In order to stay alive, Elizabeth requires only a one-year supply of the drug Desferal, which is her life's blood at this point, and a \$3,000 special infusion pump to administer it.

Elizabeth needs access to the drug benefit plan to pay for this treatment. Will the minister personally intervene and examine this matter to find out why Elizabeth's barrier to this life-saving treatment has become the denial of access the program?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: At present the Ontario drug benefit plan covers approximately one million senior citizens over the age of 65 and those people on social assistance through the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

One of the concerns I have is that people have access to the very best therapeutic results as a result of the drugs they are taking. Many

questions have been raised and that was the reason I established the Lowy drug inquiry.

As the member would know, recommendations from that inquiry are being implemented at this time. I would suggest to him that if there are any specific cases he would like me to look into, I would be pleased to give him the answer on an individual basis. If anyone or any group wants to make a presentation or present a brief to the Lowy drug inquiry to raise this issue, I think that is the appropriate forum and that is the reason I established the inquiry.

Mr. Jackson: Elizabeth does not have time, her doctors tell her, in order to make a brief to the ministry. I appreciate that you will look into it specifically. She is having as much trouble fighting the barriers set up by the ministry as she is in fighting this life-threatening condition.

She cannot qualify for the drug benefit plan because she is not on welfare. Just because she is not on welfare does not mean that she can afford the one \$60,000 treatment that is required. Second, the minister will find that her ministry has been unable to decide whether the necessary medical apparatus, in this case, an infusion pump, can go on the approved list of her assistive devices branch. Her ministry is taking its time, but time is running out for Elizabeth. She is caught in some red tape created by the Ministry of Health.

Thousands of people, many in life-threatening situations, have to deal with delay, with phone lines that are always busy and with health officials who cannot make up their minds. What support mechanisms are available for people who need to cut through red tape created by the Ministry of Health, especially when it comes to life-threatening situations?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Because of my desire to make sure that people have equity in access to the effective quality drugs and drug therapies they need and to medical services they need, I established the Lowy drug inquiry. On an individual basis, I am always pleased to look at the cases to determine whether or not there is a program that that individual applies for and I would ask the member to send me details.

The Ontario drug benefit plan is available to seniors and social assistance recipients; it is not a plan that is available to individuals beyond that. There are, however, some hospital-based programs for the provision of drugs for special needs, such as the program for patients with acquired immune deficiency syndrome in the hospitals. As well, he knows that I announced the hospital-based programs for both thalassemia

and cystic fibrosis. If there is any group that believes there are financial barriers to access to needed drug therapies, I would advise them to contact the Lowy drug inquiry. If there are individual cases, please give me that information.

1450

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES

Ms. Hart: My question is to the Minister of Energy. If Ontario is to strengthen its competitive position, we must have a reliable, secure, safe and cost-efficient supply of energy. We must also develop and use that energy in an environmentally safe way.

Given the concept of sustainable development as contained in the Brundtland report, there is an increasing need to develop new, indigenous, alternative, renewable energy supply options. Could the minister tell the House what the recently introduced amendments to the Power Corporation Act and memorandum of understanding do to encourage the development of alternative energy supply?

Hon. Mr. Wong: I thank the honourable member for her very serious interest in this matter. I wish to assure the Legislature that the new amendments to the Power Corporation Act will continue to ensure that Ontario will have safe and reliable supplies of electricity at reasonable costs and provided in an environmentally sound way.

This government has attached a great deal of importance to the development of new, indigenous and alternative and renewable sources of supply. These projects tend to be smaller in size, require less capital and can be put into operation more quickly, so they give our electricity system some flexibility.

The new amendments to the Power Corporation Act will ensure that Ontario Hydro is responsive to government policies and to public priorities. Specifically, the legislative package on this matter will require Hydro to provide a long-range strategic plan that includes targets for conservation and parallel generation and will give the utility the authority to provide such financial incentives and technical—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. It seemed like quite a full answer. Supplementary.

Ms. Hart: My supplementary to the minister is to ask what Ministry of Energy programs are offered and how much funding is available to the

public for research and development of alternative energy supplies.

Hon. Mr. Wong: The major ministry program is EnerSearch, a successful multi-year program which provides assistance to the private sector for the research, development, testing and initial demonstration of innovative energy technologies in Ontario. The EnerSearch program has been in operation since January 1986 and, to date, 196 proposals from the private sector have been received and 47 projects have been approved, for a total government contribution of \$5.3 million. Estimated expenditures under the EnerSearch program in the 1988-89 fiscal year are about \$2.5 million.

The ministry also contributes to research and development funds directed towards alternative transportation fuels. The ministry has contributed \$125,000, for example, to the Canadian Gas Association technology research and development fund; \$75,000 to the research fund of the Propane Gas Association—

Mr. Speaker: Once again, that sounds like a fairly complete answer.

PROPOSED WATER PIPELINE

Mrs. Grier: On September 22, 1986, the Minister of the Environment announced that he had approved construction of a pipeline to bring drinking water from Lake Huron to the town of Wallaceburg. He also promised that he would pay 75 per cent of the cost of that pipeline after deduction of the federal contribution. The municipal contribution was subsequently achieved, but of course we had no commitment from the federal government, and so two and a half years later, the pipeline has not even been begun.

We were glad to hear that the Minister of the Environment was meeting with his federal counterpart this week, and I would like to hear from the minister whether or not he obtained a commitment from the Honourable Lucien Bouchard to finally construct the Wallaceburg pipeline.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: It is most appropriate that I get a question from the member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore, because I am wearing my Etobicoke tie just in recognition of all of the Etobicoke members who are in the House today.

Specifically looking at the question the member asked, whether I have discussed this matter with federal officials, the fact is that our officials have been in contact with the federal officials on a number of occasions to determine whether they are prepared to make a contribution to what we consider to be a desirable project.

We have proceeded from our end in terms of engineering, in terms of looking at all the plans to lay out for this project. Municipalities, in fairness to them, have most certainly done their part by putting together their proposals in terms of funding and by giving the kind of co-operation that is necessary.

In the specific meeting with the Minister of the Environment for the federal government yesterday, I did not receive a commitment from the minister at that time on that specific project. It was a private meeting, but as on a number of occasions, we discussed the possibility of the federal government becoming more involved financially in assisting to meet environmental goals, objectives and obligations of an international nature.

I think the member would agree with me, though, that in this specific case we have a lot of—

Mr. Speaker: I thank the minister.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: —Ontario responsibility and I hope my ministry can provide that kind of funding. Oh, I am sorry.

Mr. Speaker: Your apology is accepted.

Mrs. Grier: I hope that at the very least the minister raised this specific project with the federal minister. The point I would like to make with this Minister of the Environment is that while it is all very well to wish that the federal government would live up to its responsibilities and make a contribution, the fact remains that the people of the town of Wallaceburg are still not able to get pure drinking water from Lake Huron.

In 1986, the estimated cost of this pipeline was \$22 million; the amount of federal contribution the minister was seeking was \$2 million. Would the minister not agree that perhaps it might have been better for the environment and for the health of the people of Wallaceburg to have forgotten the negotiating niceties, put up the \$2 million and built the pipeline? His 75 per cent share must be rising, so he could in fact have covered the \$2 million if he had got on with the job three years ago.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The first part of the answer I want to deal with is the question of the quality of water in the Wallaceburg community. Members will know that under the drinking water surveillance program in Ontario, we do testing rather frequently, and one of the places tested is Wallaceburg. The water has met all the objectives of the Ministry of the Environment as it has in other communities across the province.

In that specific situation, we have a quality of water which is acceptable under the standards

and guidelines we have established. What has been perceived as the problem is the potential for future problems that might exist. I hope that the municipal-industrial strategy for abatement and other initiatives taken in terms of control orders will be of considerable assistance in solving that.

What we offered was the flat 75 per cent, regardless of where the other 25 per cent came from. We put our money up front. Our money has been on the table all this time as the government of Ontario. I am disappointed that the federal government has not participated, but—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. New question.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: It appears there are some members wasting time so that other members cannot ask questions.

BEEF MARKETING

Mr. Villeneuve: My question is to the Minister of Agriculture and Food. The beef producers' vote committee, in its background information on the vote, says: "Within the scope of this vote, the Ontario government is not committed to providing funding to achieve cost production. A central aim of the beef producers, for a change, is cost of production." Does the minister have any plans to give beef producers provincially funded cost-of-production support?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: Simple answer: No plans whatsoever. They will get their cost of production out of the marketplace the same way they do with dairy, eggs, chicken and turkeys, all of them under national supply management. All of them get their cost of production on the marketplace. That would be the same with the beef, if indeed they chose to go that route.

1500

Mr. Villeneuve: As I said in response to the minister's earlier statement, without federal guidance I guess he is going nowhere and he has no plans at all. That is an admission. It seems quite surprising that the minister would agree to give the beef producers a supply management marketing board after making many statements saying that marketing boards were a thing of the past. How is this going to work? The minister does not have a plan.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: The only one who does not have a plan over there is the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry. I have never seen anybody so out of touch with agriculture in all my life.

Anyway, if the voters chose to vote for a beef commission and if they chose to vote for the

second item on the ballot, to have this beef commission strive for a national supply management program, then they will have to get all provinces on side. If all provinces agree to a national supply management program, which is permissible under legislation, then, of course, they will get their cost of production out of the marketplace. It is not the governments that pay them cost of production.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Mr. Faubert: My question is to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. Last week, the minister returned from Davos, Switzerland, where he hosted a delegation of business leaders at the international conference on world trade. This event was organized by the World Economic Forum, a Swiss nonprofit and nonpartisan foundation. It was attended by some 800 executives from 64 countries, as well as 100 political and university leaders.

Can the minister update this Legislature on the objectives of the Ontario delegation at this conference and how well those objectives were realized?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I am sure members know that once a year the World Economic Forum is held, and last year we were a featured jurisdiction. This year, British Columbia was the featured jurisdiction. Premier Vander Zalm, Premier Bourassa and several of their ministers, as well as representation from Ontario, were there to discuss economic factors that really impact on global trade. The major thrust was 1992 and what the impact of that was going to be, as well as dealing with such subjects as Third World debt and the prospects of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

We had a very substantial Ontario delegation. We had an opportunity to meet with world leaders in the fields of business, academia and politics. What we really did was establish and re-establish connections that we have had that we think are going to stand us in good stead in the future.

Mr. Faubert: By way of supplementary, I understand that with the advent of the Europe 1992 conference, which I believe will be here in Toronto, there will be many changes in global trade structures, the relationship in Europe and throughout the world. In fact, Lester Thurow, a Massachusetts economist, is quoted as saying that GATT is dead and that the multilateral trade system is splintering into separate trading blocs.

Can the minister advise the House if he concurs with this view and can he outline how the

restructuring taking place in Europe will affect our global trading practices here in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: Professor Thurow of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology made a statement in a forum that in his opinion GATT was dead. That was a very provocative statement. The world media picked up on it and there were headlines literally around the world saying, "In the Opinion of Leading Economist, GATT is Dead."

What they did not report was that in that same panel there were several world authorities who disagreed with him. One of them was former Prime Minister of France Raymond Barre, who immediately took him to task and felt that 1992 was going to provide not Fortress Europe, but a stronger Europe.

I attended the GATT meetings, the midterm review, in Montreal. Without question, there are some problems, but certainly it is my feeling that GATT will survive. It is the feeling of other people as well.

We certainly are looking forward to participating in those ongoing discussions. As the member has already stated, later on this year we will be holding a major conference dealing with 1992, what is going to happen in Europe and how we in Ontario can respond to it.

ALGOMA CENTRAL RAILWAY

Mr. Wildman: I appreciate the fact that I have a very important question to the Minister of Mines. The minister will know that despite the fact that Algoma Steel Corp. posted a profit of \$72.7 million on sales of \$1.4 billion in 1988 and despite the fact that the Algoma Ore Division in Wawa has improved its productivity substantially so that it is probably the most productive iron ore mine in northern Ontario, Algoma Steel's vice-president last week announced that the corporation will be making a study, between now and June, about the future of Algoma Ore Division in Wawa.

The minister will know that the subsidy for the Algoma Central Railway runs out in 1991. Can the minister tell us what the government's plans are to ensure the viability of Algoma Ore Division in Wawa after 1991? What happens with regard to the freight rates and what discussions has the government had with Algoma Steel Corp. and the ACR regarding the future of Wawa after 1991?

Hon. Mr. Conway: I want to say to my honourable friend that under the leadership of my colleagues and the government generally, we have taken a number of steps to revitalize the

economy of the honourable member's area. I will not take the time of question period to detail a number of the initiatives that we have taken in the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines to stimulate mineral exploration and development in the honourable member's riding. He is aware of that.

This government, under the leadership of the Premier, has moved over the last few years to provide very specific support to the honourable member's area of particular interest in this question. He knows of our interest. He knows that we have had a number of discussions with the economic development authorities in the area, and he can be assured that we will continue to do in the future what we have done in the past to provide the very highest level of support for the growth and economic development in the Algoma area.

PETITIONS

TRANSIT SERVICES

Mr. Brandt: I have a series of petitions, the first of which is to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"While we welcome the extension of GO train service to Ajax and Whitby, we question the present government's ability to plan for the future when the parking lots at Ajax and Whitby are already filled to capacity, with no provision having been made for expansion, when the first westbound Lakeshore GO train each day, which formerly had 10 bilevel cars, has now been reduced to four cars, resulting in people sitting in the stairwells, blocking movement of those either embarking or disembarking from the train and when no provision for the ambulatory disabled was made at the new Pickering, Ajax or Whitby GO stations."

EXTENDED CARE

Mr. Brandt: The next petition I have for the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor in Council and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, signed by 37 persons in the riding represented by the member for Lambton (Mr. Smith), a government member, reads in part as follows:

"I believe that all residents of extended care facilities, whether it be a nursing home or a municipal home for the aged, are entitled to equal care and services according to the specific care requirements of each individual.

"Nursing home residents should benefit from the same amount of funding and kinds of services as residents of municipal homes for the aged.

"I urge the Ontario government to reform the extended care system so that it is uniform, fair and equitable with regard to funding and regulation and so that seniors in all extended care facilities receive the quality of care that they deserve."

Mr. Speaker: Could I interrupt the member? I was just listening to the last petition. He realizes they should be addressed to the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, not the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

Mr. Brandt: I was reading them the way they were presented to me. Obviously, the authors have in fact written them incorrectly. I will make that correction as I read it, sir.

I have a petition for the Lieutenant Governor—

Mr. Speaker: As printed.

Mr. Brandt: —the Lieutenant Governor—as printed—and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario signed by 224 persons from my riding.

To save the time of the House, this petition reads exactly like the petition I just read. To give the House the opportunity of not having to hear it a second time, I shall simply present this petition.

However, I have another one.

1510

TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION

Mr. Brandt: I have a petition for the Lieutenant Governor—as read—and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, signed by 603 teachers from Sarnia and area which reads, in part, as follows:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"To amend the Teachers' Superannuation Act, 1983, in order that all teachers who retired prior to May 31, 1982, have their pensions recalculated on the best five years rather than at the present seven or 10 years.

"This proposed amendment would make the five-year criteria applicable to all retired teachers and would eliminate the present inequitable treatment."

Those are the four petitions I have to present to the Legislative Assembly.

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Mr. Morin-Strom: I have a petition that reads as follows:

"To the Honourable Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, and in particular the Minister of Financial Institutions.

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"That the auto insurance board's proposed rate hikes of 35 to 40 per cent are unreasonable and unfounded. We, the undersigned, feel that we are being 'had' by the insurance companies and would like to see lower and fairer rates."

This petition has been signed by approximately 450 residents of Sault Ste. Marie. I hope it is duly noted by the government with respect to the announcement to be made on Monday.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. McLean: I have a petition I would like to present. It is from the parishioners of St. Patrick's in Pelpston and Our Lady of Lourdes in Elmvale."

"As a Christian community, we feel it is important to maintain Sunday as a day of worship. We would like to proclaim publicly our disapproval of open Sunday shopping. Not only do we disapprove of this practice, we want to strongly urge that this matter remain under provincial jurisdiction."

This was addressed to the Premier (Mr. Peterson) and the people brought to my attention that he did not have the decency to present it to this Legislature.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WATER TRANSFER CONTROL ACT

(continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 175, An Act respecting transfers of Water.

Mr. Sterling: As members will recall, this particular bill was hotly debated on November 10 last, during a period of time leading up to a federal election. It was thought by all logical and sane people that this bill would be forgotten for ever, like some of the other legislation that was thrown up by this government to try to involve itself in a federal campaign.

Notwithstanding the fact that the results of their intervention in the federal election campaign had no positive effects for their federal Liberal colleagues, they seem to want to persist with regard to Bill 175.

I ask you, Mr. Speaker, whether or not it is permitted within the ambit of the business of this House for the government to introduce a piece of legislation—this is really on a point of order, Mr. Speaker, and I ask for your assistance on this. Is it possible for the government to introduce a bill that is in effect redundant because it is provided

for in other legislation the government already has in place at this time?

I am quite willing to go into the argument that for each and every section of this bill this government already has legislation in place that covers each and every point, as far as I can determine. In other words, all that is happening here this afternoon, which I consider a waste of the time of the Legislature, is that the government is striking a posture that it is doing something when in fact it has all the powers within the terms of two other pieces of legislation passed some time ago to do exactly what it is stating in this bill.

I want to know whether to pursue that argument. Would you advise me, Mr. Speaker, whether that would be a valid point of order? I do not want to go through all of the argument and then have you rule it does not matter whether it is redundant.

Mr. Speaker: I will listen to the minister briefly on that point.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I would like to respond to that ridiculous request. We certainly did apply ourselves to the protection of water in Ontario and Canada because the government of Canada failed to do it. They put a bill in the federal legislature that died on the order paper and have not seen fit to put that bill back. That was an admission that water was at threat by the free trade agreement. It still is. This government intends to do everything it can to protect the water within the bounds of our jurisdiction, and to do it not only for Ontarians but all Canadians.

Mr. Speaker: I have listened very carefully to both members who have spoken. I have not known of any instance in the past when the Speaker has ruled on whether a bill has been in or out of order, other, probably, than bills introduced by opposition members that would expend funds.

I listened very carefully to the member for Carleton stating that different sections affected other legislation and in turn became redundant. I think that could be decided by the committee when it deals with each section. Therefore, I see nothing out of order in continuing the discussion of the motion before the House for second reading.

Mr. Sterling: Therefore, your ruling is that in spite of the fact that in my view this bill is really doing nothing to create new law in Ontario—we can argue that issue later if they wish, but that is my view after carefully reading the bill and carefully reading other legislation dealing with this—the government has every right, then, to

waste the time of the opposition and the Legislature of Ontario by bringing forward another piece of legislation that does exactly what is already in place in law. Is that basically the position of the chair on our orders, that you can do it over again?

Mr. Speaker: The way I would have to respond, and I do not really wish to respond, is that the member is really wasting the time of the House by asking the Speaker questions on legislation. The bill is before the House. The House accepted to discuss it. Therefore, we are on second reading. I will recognize the member for discussion on second reading of the bill.

Mr. Sterling: I do not consider it a waste of time to discuss the point of order, because I think that if our orders do not provide that a member of the House, be it a minister or—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I believe the member is arguing my decision that it is not a point of order the member has raised. I stated that originally. Would the member continue discussing the bill. He may challenge my ruling if he wishes.

Mr. Sterling: I am sorry that you are not interested—

Mr. Speaker: Order. A ruling can be challenged, but it is not debatable. Do you wish to continue discussion of the bill?

1520

Mr. Sterling: Yes, I will continue the discussion with regard to this piece of legislation. Since I presume the standing orders permit the government to bring forward a piece of legislation that in effect is redundant, I will show members of the Legislature, and I hope the public, just what a farce Bill 175 really is. I refer to other legislation that is already in place in our statute books at this time.

First of all, I would like to refer to the Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act, which is chapter 229 of the Revised Statutes of Ontario. Under that particular act, I will read section 2:

"The purpose of this act is to provide for the use of waters of the lakes and rivers of Ontario and to regulate improvements in them, and to provide for,

"(a) the preservation and equitable exercise of public rights in or over such waters;

"(b) the protection of the interests of the riparian owners;

"(c) the use, management and perpetuation of the fish, wildlife and other natural resources dependent on such waters;"

Clauses (d) and (e) give the other parts that this act refers to.

Then of course there is the very all-empowering section 3 of the Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act. I refer to subsection 3(1) which says, "The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations"—that means the cabinet of Ontario can make regulations—" (b) respecting generally the use under this act of lakes and rivers and waters therein."

Therefore, this minister, through his cabinet, has every right to sit in the cabinet room and make regulations controlling the use of our lakes and rivers and the waters therein.

I further refer to—

Mr. Haggerty: The member does not understand section 6 of the bill.

Mr. Fleet: He probably does not understand any of the bill, to be honest, Ray.

Mr. Sterling: If some of the other members want to speak with regard to this bill after they have read some of the legislation, I invite them to do so. They like to chirp without really having much knowledge about what is in fact in the legislation.

At any rate, under subsection 44(1) of the Ontario Water Resources Act, "Subject to the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, the minister may make regulations," so even under this act the minister has a greater power than under the other act I read previously. The minister may make regulations. I refer to clause 44(1)(r)—it gives an indication of the wide range of regulatory powers the minister has under the Ontario Water Resources Act—which in particular refers to "regulating and controlling the use of water from any source of supply."

Therefore, we have a piece of legislation, An Act respecting transfers of Water, that in fact has no new meaning. We have, in my view, a sham with regard to the use of this Legislature's valuable time in terms of trying to create a political statement by this government that somehow through Bill 175 it is going to save the people of Ontario from the transfer of water to other jurisdictions, including the United States.

Further, on November 10, when we debated this bill the last time, I engaged the minister briefly in a debate and asked him point-blank whether or not this piece of legislation in any way referred to our Great Lakes. The minister, trying to avoid the question, did not answer.

The fact of the matter is that this act, Bill 175, An Act respecting transfers of Water, does not refer to the water in Lake Superior, in Lake Huron, in Lake St. Clair, in Lake Erie, in Lake Ontario or the St. Lawrence River. Therefore, any attempt by this minister or this government to

try to pretend that they could stop the pouring of water into the United States by this piece of legislation is nothing but a farce.

The water in Lake Superior, Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, etc., is of course controlled by the International Joint Commission, which is made up of representatives from both Canada and the United States. Therefore, when someone diverts water out of those Great Lakes, it has to be with the approval of the International Joint Commission.

Not only that, but the United States has one of the Great Lakes, Lake Michigan, totally within its boundaries; therefore, it is not even subject to International Joint Commission control. While people in Canada would suggest there is some control by Canada over the taking of water from Lake Michigan, the Americans make it clear that is not within our control.

As people know, at present, at this time, there is a diversion of water out of Lake Michigan into the Mississippi River system, long known as the Chicago diversion, which takes water out of our Great Lakes and diverts it into the United States. That is presently controlled by the American system through the Supreme Court of the United States.

Therefore, not only is this bill redundant in terms of what it does in creating new law, but it also has no practical effect for most of the fresh water the majority of our population relies on from day to day.

The other point that should be brought forward with regard to this piece of legislation is that the management of the Great Lakes, in my view, requires a consultative approach, which the former government took, with the United States. In fact, as recently as 1985, this province along with Quebec and eight US states along the Great Lakes signed a charter of principles aimed at protecting the Great Lakes from the threat of large-scale water diversions and general overuse. That was the method by which the former Conservative government approached the water use problem with regard to fresh water in Canada and in Ontario.

We find that Bill 175 is an affront or an attempted affront to the people in those eight states who wanted to enter into some kind of agreement with regard to diverting water away from the Great Lakes without consultation, which I would argue that some of the states in the United States appear to have in law at this time. Now we have a government—on the basis of trying to fight an election which is already over, that being the federal election on November

21—which continues to affront those eight states and continues to not make the problem better, but make the problem worse.

1530

What waters does Bill 175 include? What it includes is all of the water from the north shore of Lake Ontario, the north shore of Lake Erie, the east shore of Lake Huron and the north shore of Lake Superior. In general terms, we are talking about the water in water basins from there on up. The only way you could possibly control the extraction of water from the Great Lakes, or the water levels, would be to dam each and every river and creek along those shores, to ensure that there was not going to be a transfer of water away from us through the Great Lakes system.

Quite frankly, we find this bill a farce. We consider it an affront to the legislative process in that it does not really achieve anything. We were extremely amazed at this time, when we are trying to wind up this legislative session, that the government would persist in bringing this forward. We can only assume that it is a further method of antagonizing the opposition to bring us to sit here longer and longer. Perhaps we will be sitting here to the end of June if it continues to bring forward pieces of legislation which have really no practical effect.

The Conservative Party is really ambivalent as to whether or not to support this particular legislation, because the bill does not really have any positive effect for the people of Ontario. The problem of voting against this is the interpretation that this government will use, that it is putting forward in terms of its style of government. In fighting a rearguard election, it would likely go out and say that we are willing to sell off all of our water to the United States as a result of our nonsupport for Bill 175.

Mr. Faubert: You are pre-empting the criticism.

Mr. Sterling: Of course I am.

Mr. Furlong: That is what any smart politician would do, right?

Mr. Sterling: That is right.

I would hope that the Minister of Natural Resources will turn his mind to more important matters. There are many problems within his ministry that we are hearing from day to day. For instance, with regard to the conservation authorities, we are very upset with the most recent recommendations of this government to amalgamate conservation authorities across our province.

I get the answer from the minister that it is in the study stage. Quite frankly, we cannot talk about anything in this government that is not in the study stage. The Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) says that they will consult, and he has been consulting now for three or four years, with regard to waste disposal sites in Ontario. During this Liberal government's reign, there has not been one new waste disposal site opened for solid garbage in Ontario, so I am told.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: That is totally untrue. But you can be sure we won't make the mistakes the Tories did on those sites.

Mr. Sterling: They do not make a mistake but they never state their position and they never go forward. Quite frankly, I think a government should make a mistake from time to time. If it is going to proceed at all, if it is going to progress at all, it has to be willing to put its position forward from time to time.

I am sure every member in the Legislature has read my remarks on November 10 when we debated this bill before. If members refer to my opening remarks, I said at that time that the greatest threat to our water resources, the resources of our province, was John Turner, the Liberal leader. I referred to his election promises of \$32 billion, and I alleged at that time that we would have to sell our water in order to pay for those election promises.

Thank goodness, the people of Canada—in fact, the people of Ontario—in spite of this shameful bill, have decided to elect Conservatives to represent Ontario in our federal Parliament. The people of Canada have elected Conservatives to represent them at the Canadian level. I am sure the ministers responsible at the federal level will negotiate in good faith with our American friends to make certain that our common water resources, which are the most important resources in our province, will in fact be put to the best use.

That will not be achieved through cheap confrontational bills like Bill 175. Therefore, I do not think this is a happy or proud day in the history of the Legislature of Ontario. I think it is a sad day when we have to consider such trivial legislation which can only lead to worse relations with regard to utilizing our water resources in the future.

Mr. Pollock: I want to agree with the comments of my friend the member for Carleton (Mr. Sterling) that this bill is an outright farce. There was a historical agreement signed by Premier Bill Davis back in June 1982 protecting the fresh water in our Great Lakes. Of course,

these sentiments were also mentioned by the honourable member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope) in his capacity as Minister of Natural Resources when he addressed a symposium in Minnesota back in May 1984.

I mentioned to the minister at the time of estimates that if he thinks this particular legislation is going to stop people from pumping water out of our Great Lakes system with irrigation pumps, he is dreaming. He might think he has the authority to stop Canadians or Ontarians from pumping water out of our Great Lakes with irrigation pumps, but he certainly does not have the authority to stop the Americans, and I am sure the Americans are pumping three times as much water out in the summertime as Canadians are.

I feel the bill is just a complete farce. There was already agreement in place back in 1909 with regard to the transfer of water through the Chicago canal. This particular bill does not enter into the picture there at all because that is totally within the United States and, therefore, we really do not have a whole lot to say about it other than an agreement with the United States.

I just wanted to put those few comments on the record and give my views of the whole situation.

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Hon. Mr. Kerrio: When the two gentlemen made the comments about our American friends and trusting the federal government to lie down with the Americans and come up with a decent agreement, it brought back something that I think is a reasonable assessment of the situation. I read one time where there was a gentleman who, when making an analogy of this huge nation and our small nation side by side, described it as an elephant and a mouse. I think the one that is more appropriate in this case is the saying, "A lion can lie down with a lamb," but I am afraid that in this case the lamb would be in the lion's stomach. That is how much I trust the arrangement that we can make with our friends to the south if they were to want our water.

I have to say I am very disappointed that the members think this is a waste of time and that we are not doing something to protect this very important resource. That is a real disappointment. I want to reiterate what I said before, and members have to listen very carefully to what I am saying. Those who have studied the free trade agreement did not agree that our water was protected. It was many, many people. For some reason, the federal government decided it had better take another look and it did. It put a bill on the record, Bill C-130, because it began to be

convinced that there was a threat to that particular case.

The member talked about the election. This is where we do lose in elections sometimes. While the federal government was being pressured and brought in Bill C-130 to protect our water, it did not reintroduce it. That is a very good and urgent reason we in this province and in this Legislature should do everything we can. Maybe we cannot protect it to the degree that a federal government can, but we are the only province that borders on four of the Great Lakes. We have a duty to perform, not only for the people in Ontario but, indeed, for all the people of Canada.

Mr. Morin-Strom: I would like to express my agreement with many of the comments that were made by our colleague from the Conservative Party on this particular issue.

The minister obviously does not understand what he has in his own bill. This bill is providing him with the opportunity of selling our water. There is no prohibition whatsoever from the diversion of water out of Ontario in this bill. If this minister had been serious about what he was intending to do, he would have crafted a bill that made some sense rather than this piece of garbage we have before us today.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Speaker, I would like to respond to that.

The Acting Speaker: The member has already had his opportunity for comments and questions. Are there any other members who wish to comment upon the speech by the member for Carleton? Does the member for Carleton wish to respond in reply?

Mr. Sterling: Yes, I do, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the two members of the opposition parties for commenting on my speech. I thank the minister for commenting. I disagree with him wholeheartedly and hold to my comments with regard to how useless this piece of legislation really is.

I also noted that no members of the Liberal back bench, although they were quite ready to chirp during my speech, saw fit to rise during that period of time and add their significant comments with regard to this piece of legislation. So I trust that we will go on with this government in terms of bringing forward bills like this if, in fact, we do not have intelligent debate from members of the government side to bring ministers into line when they bring forward pieces of legislation like this.

Mr. Dietsch: Tell us how you used to do it.

Mr. Sterling: I will tell the member over there what we used to do. I brought in, when I was a backbencher with regard to the former Conservative government, amendments to ministers' bills which the ministers did not agree with. We debated bills when we were in the back bench of the Conservative majority government. We did not sit back and let ministers and their staffs run over our heads with ridiculous pieces of legislation like Bill 175.

This piece of legislation is nothing but a political ploy. If anything, it brings into question the former minister's control and the former cabinet's control over our water resources and, therefore, probably weakens our position rather than strengthens it.

Mr. Morin-Strom: I appreciate the opportunity to speak on this bill, although I think it is a needless exercise that we have to spend an afternoon of this session on this bill, which was really a political document from the Liberal Party, which does not do anything positive and, as it has been written, does something very negative in terms of our control over our water resources in Ontario.

The minister introduced this bill back in late June 1988, in the months leading up to a federal election campaign, when the Premier (Mr. Peterson) was in a position of posturing, vis-à-vis the Prime Minister, on behalf of the Liberal Party and John Turner, and introduced three supposedly anti-free trade bills at that time which were to show that Ontario was doing something about its previous commitment during the 1987 provincial election campaign that there would be no free trade agreement.

Once we saw the bill, and everyone around the province saw the bill, everyone recognized that the bill never achieved what the Premier and what the minister stated were the intentions of the bill, which were to stop the possible diversion or export of our water resources from Ontario. In fact, the bill does the reverse. The bill gives the minister himself—not the Legislature of the province—the sole authority to decide that he is going to license the export of water and gives him the right to start charging fees on water. The only beneficiary of the bill is the minister, who could start collecting fees on potential exports in the future.

The explanatory notes to the bill read as follows, and they are relatively short: "The minister is authorized to attach conditions to an approval and to require payment for a transfer of water. Approval will be refused or revoked if the minister"—the minister alone—"is of the opinion

that the transfer is or may be detrimental to ensuring a secure water supply for Ontario or Canada or any part thereof."

I do not understand how we, as a Legislature, can expect to give one individual minister the authority for a major transfer of water, a resource which is so critical to the long-term future of our province, a birthright of the people of this province. This bill, in its own explanatory notes, states that the purpose of it is to give the minister himself that sole authority.

If the members look at some of the detail of the bill in terms of what the bill gives the minister the right to do, subsection 4(1) says, "The minister may approve a transfer of water out of a provincial drainage basin subject to such conditions and subject to the payment to the crown of such amount as the minister considers appropriate."

This has nothing to do with prohibition of water diversion out of Ontario. This is a bill to give the minister the licensing authority so that he can control it and charge a fee for it. The minister's only concern here is whether he is going to have a share of the action when a major water transfer is proposed to Ontario.

It goes on to say, in subsection 4(2), "The amount to be paid to the crown for a transfer of water under subsection 4(1) may be a lump sum, a fixed periodic payment, an amount calculated according to the quantity of water transferred or any combination thereof, and may be made payable on such terms as are prescribed or as the minister determines."

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We not only have the authority to sell, but the bill actually goes into detail of how the payment arrangements can be made to the minister. If the minister had been honest with the people of the province, he would have admitted what he was doing and not pretended that what he was attempting to do was stop the export of water out of Ontario.

In the minister's own statement on June 29, 1988, the day the bill was introduced, he said: "The act prohibits the person from taking water out of a provincial drainage basin without the express consent of the Minister of Natural Resources." That is a pretty big loophole, giving the minister the complete authority to approve and collect payment on the export of our water.

The minister does say: "This government is on record for its opposition to large-scale water diversions which we feel will not benefit the long-term interests of Ontario or Canada. For example, on January 7, 1986, the Premier stood

in this House and spoke out against the GRAND Canal scheme."

That was in a response to a question I posed to the Premier back in early 1986, at which time there was serious talk of linking the sale of our water with the free trade agreement. As a follow-up to that, a resolution came before the House which is much stronger than anything in this bill and in fact gets to the essence of what this bill should be getting at. I would ask the minister to go back and look at amendments. We have proposed some amendments to this bill that contain the essence of what this parliament has already agreed to. This resolution was passed in May 1986 by this parliament.

I will read the resolution:

"That in the opinion of this House, recognizing that the water resources of both the Great Lakes basin and the James Bay basin are precious public resources, and recognizing the constitutional jurisdiction of Ontario to manage and protect its freshwater resources, and recognizing the Great Lakes charter to which Ontario is a signatory, and recognizing that Simon Reisman, Canada's chief trade negotiator, has publicly stated that the GRAND Canal project could provide key leverage to negotiate a free trade deal with the United States, this House condemns any attempt to link free trade with diversion of Ontario's water resources; that water resources cannot be part of any trade discussions with the United States, and that Ontario will not consent to any major diversion of its fresh water, now or in the future."

That was passed by this House overwhelmingly, with only several of the Conservative members voting against it at that point; but that is the intent that has been stated by the legislators of this province. I would ask the minister why he did not live up to that intent and ensure that this bill did the last key point: "Ontario will not consent to any major diversion of its fresh water, now or in the future."

This bill should have got directly to the point of the matter and absolutely prohibited any such diversion. Then the minister would have the support, I believe, of every member of this House. The loopholes he has in this bill the way it is mean that we as legislators have to trust him for the future of that resource. I would far prefer to see it legislated that he does not have that right to license and start collecting a fee on such a potential major scheme as the GRAND Canal project.

Of course, no one ever expected the government to proceed on this bill seriously, since it had

been obviously so flawed and so quickly drafted in the political heat preceding the federal election last year. The government obviously had not put any time into the constructing of this bill, and now we are going to have to go through major amendment after amendment to try to get any semblance of value out of it.

The minister would have been far wiser to go back and craft a bill that accomplished what had been the intent, I think, and the hope of many members of this Legislature, that we would see an absolute prohibition on interbasin diversions of water out of this province. We are here today discussing this bill because the government does not have any agenda other than holding up the process of the parliament of Ontario with bills which have no real value.

We could easily have been adjourned this week if it had not been for the stalling tactics of this government and the bringing forward of bills such as this one which only create a fuss, because they are so poorly worded, with the result that we have to go in and make major changes to them in order to give them any value whatsoever.

The concerns behind this bill clearly go back to the possibility of major water diversions out of the province. I will speak to that intent assuming that the intent of the bill is to prohibit such water diversions and with the hope that this bill can be amended sufficiently once it gets into committee so that we can put some value back into the bill as a whole.

On the issue of water diversions, our party and I think most people in Ontario and presumably most members of this Legislature are absolutely opposed to major water diversions out of the province. This became a major issue during the free trade debate because of the fact that the trade negotiator, Simon Reisman, had been a former major proponent of sale of Canadian water.

Particularly disturbing was an article that Simon Reisman authored for Canadian Business Review. This article is entitled Canada-United States Trade at the Crossroads: Options for Growth. The subheadings read: "A comprehensive Canada-United States free trade agreement would be good for Canada and Canadians and Canadian water could be used to negotiate a deal."

This article was written by Simon Reisman just before he was named the chief trade negotiator for the federal government. Obviously, that created major concerns within various communities of the province and right across Canada with regard to the impact such a proposal might have.

I think there probably still have to be some concerns about whether this link may continue to be pursued, because we know the free trade agreement that has been agreed to at this point is not set in stone. There is still a negotiating period over the next seven years during which various definitions, of subsidies particularly, are going to have to be agreed to between the two countries.

In a wide-ranging negotiation procedure, we could well be held up for ransom again by the Americans, and given the lack of success of our federal government in getting reasonable terms—totally unreasonable terms—in what was negotiated in the free trade agreement last year, there have to be concerns about what might be traded off in the future in order to try to protect any Canadian interest whatsoever in the next few years.

I will read the summary of the article, a major nine-page article by Simon Reisman:

"This article briefly reviews the history of Canada-United States trade relations and concludes that a comprehensive free trade agreement between the two countries would give Canada access to the large US market but Canada must negotiate conditions that make a trade agreement vital to the United States. The author"—that is, Simon Reisman—"proposes that the United States be offered access to Canadian water by converting James Bay from a saltwater body to a freshwater lake by building a sea-level dike across the mouth of the bay." This is known as the GRAND Canal project.

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The article goes into considerable detail about this project, with the damming and the canals that would be required. According to this article, "The project would move into Lake Huron a volume of fresh water equivalent to twice the flow of the Great Lakes system." That has to be a horrendous amount of water. The environmental impact of that kind of diversion is really beyond our imagination.

As well we have the concerns about the costs of the project, and from the article: "The magnitude of the GRAND Canal project is five times that of the Apollo moon project. The project will cost approximately \$100 billion current dollars and will take 10 years to construct and put into operation."

The federal government has helped the GRAND Canal group to put together fancy documents and come up with studies and recommendations. We have a fancy coloured document that I think all members of the

Legislature received from them last year, partially financed by the federal government as well.

Of particular concern is that this is not just a fly-by-night operation. The proponents behind this project include some of the most influential business groupings in Canada. The chairman of Grandco is Louis Desmarais, from one of the most powerful families in Canada. Included on the list of directors is a representative of the SNC Group and also a representative of Bechtel Canada, probably the two biggest construction firms in Canada. Bechtel is one of the largest construction firms in the world, one of the largest private companies in the world, with close ties into President Bush's administration in the United States.

As well on the director's list is a representative of Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. With this kind of a project one could imagine that the energy requirement to change the direction of the flow from into James Bay back into the Great Lakes involves the building of a huge system of canals. There are pictures of canals across the north of Ontario with various dam sites and power plants required.

We have the lifting of, as it says, "double the volume of the Great Lakes system, a height much higher than Niagara Falls." Trying to lift double the volume of—

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: They wouldn't dare make it higher than Niagara Falls.

Mr. Morin-Strom: It is, because the elevation in northern Ontario down to James Bay is a lot higher than Niagara Falls, so you have the energy required to lift that water continuously. The only way you can possibly do it is with major nuclear power plants across northern Ontario, so that one could certainly see the interests of Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd.

Mr. Haggerty: Thousands of jobs.

Mr. Morin-Strom: Thousands of jobs? We totally destroy our northern wilderness, flooding a good portion of northern Ontario and causing untold environmental disruption. I do not know how we afford the \$100 billion either.

One never knows how far this kind of proposal may go, but when you have major business interests, major construction interests and nuclear power interests involved in proposing these kinds of projects, they have to be looked at seriously. This particular one, as I have stated, was written and proposed by Simon Reisman, so one certainly can understand why, as the parliament in Ontario, we had to address this issue with this resolution in 1986. That resolution clearly indicated the position of the legislators of

this province "that Ontario will not consent to any major diversion of its fresh water, now or in the future."

I do not know why the minister has not taken the proper steps to ensure that this bill carried out that express wish of the people of Ontario and stopped the diversion of water, rather than the farcical result we have here, which allows the minister the licensing power and specifies the way in which we can charge the exporters for potential water diversions out of Ontario.

I think it is unfortunate that this political bill, hastily constructed just in advance of the election campaign starting last year to create a positioning of the Premier versus the Prime Minister, has to be pursued now, rather than the minister going back and constructing a proper bill that makes sense and in fact accomplishes what we all want to do, and that is to stop, now and for ever, any possibility of major diversions of water out of Ontario.

I would ask this minister to reconsider, and if he will not withdraw the bill, we are going to have to propose a number of amendments during committee stage in order to provide this bill with some semblance of teeth and some semblance of meeting the objective for which certainly this party stands.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I see the leader of the third—the Leader of the Opposition is here, because he has—

Mr. B. Rae: It may not last for ever; at least get my title right. As long as I've got the title, use it.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: No, I am pleased about it. Frankly, that is the truth.

The only thing I am a little disappointed about is that the member for Sault Ste. Marie (Mr. Morin-Strom) obviously has not seen or agreed that the exchange between us was one done between, I think, two people who were honest with each other. It is something that maybe shocked him, that the minute he pointed out to me that there was some concern about the bill not stopping the transfer of water out of Canada into the United States, I did not hesitate for a moment. I hope the member will take me at my word, because I have my amendment ready to confirm the agreement that I made with his leader.

Obviously, the member does not listen to what his leader says—I am talking to the member for Sault Ste. Marie—because the comment was made that that very important aspect of this bill was going to be addressed. I know it may not be the appropriate time, but I will read that right into the record. This amendment says:

"Despite the trade agreement signed on the second day of January, 1988, by the government of Canada and the government of the United States of America or any law of Canada implementing the agreement, the minister shall refuse to give approval to a transfer of water out of a provincial drainage basin to a place outside Canada."

That was a commitment that I made to the member's leader. I mean to live up to it and I am sure that he trusts that I am going to do that.

I want to make certain that the member listens in the future to arrangements that are made by people on this side. I do not know why he finds it so strange that a minister is very much prepared when a very good amendment is proposed to accept that, particularly from his leader.

I hope that in the future the member will listen to what his leader has to say from time to time. Even though he only wants to do his own thing, he does make some very good comments and I think some things that will change the will of this government to accept a reasonable amendment, as he has asked me to do and I am prepared to do.

Mr. Pollock: I listened quite carefully to the member for Sault Ste. Marie as he walked us through the bill and stated that the only person in Ontario who has the authority to sell water to the United States is going to be the Minister of Natural Resources.

In thinking about that, we all know the political realities of this place. In 1991, there could well be another election and the next Minister of Natural Resources could be a Conservative.

I would just like to know if there is any Liberal member here who would choose to stand in his place and say he would be comfortable with this bill knowing what is in it. They can go ahead.

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Mr. Morin-Strom: I appreciate the fact that the minister is going to accept our amendment to this bill. The minister knows that one amendment does not solve the problems of this bill, because as I indicated, there are various sections of this bill that give the minister loophole after loophole in terms of the licensing and selling of water out of the province. As I said, this is not a bill that requires one simple amendment; it requires amendments to ensure that it actually does prohibit the export of water out of the province.

We have a number of amendments. There are a number of sections which would be totally irrelevant if the sale of water out of the province of Ontario were prohibited. We have a number of deletions, and I am sure the minister is going to

accept them all, now that he has finally accepted the principle that our objective is to stop the diversion of water out of the province.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Polsinelli): Are there any further members wishing to participate in the debate?

Mr. B. Rae: I want to participate in this debate because I did take some interest in it when it was first proposed by the government in June, and again as we were discussing it in the fall of last year.

I do not think we should be under any illusions as to what we are discussing here. We are discussing the consequences of a goof on the part of the government. It was a goof born of an effort to gain political credibility by stepping in where it was perceived the feds were not stepping in.

The original idea behind the law must have been to make sure, according to the minister, that Ontario got the credit for stopping the export of water from Canada to the United States. To quote the words the minister used when he introduced the bill in June: "This government is concerned that the proposed free trade agreement places control of Canada's water supply at risk. We believe the failure to expressly exclude water exports from the agreement opens a door we think ought to be closed." That was the original purpose of the legislation when the minister got up on his feet in June 1988.

When we pointed out to the government in the fall that in fact that was not what this bill was all about, the minister went outside this place and said: "But this is not what the bill is intended to do. What this bill is all about is the regulation of transfers within Canada."

I am always an admirer of improvisation.

Mr. Fleet: We have noticed.

Mr. B. Rae: As the member for High Park-Swansea says, he has noticed. I have had to do that on occasion myself, on some days better than others, like everyone else.

I ask myself the question, why would the government not simply withdraw this bill? Why are we having this discussion? The minister then says that if the amendments proposed by the New Democratic Party were put forward—that is to say, there should be no exports of water from Ontario, period—he is suggesting things that Ontario has been doing since 1913 would then become impossible, to which I reply, "If you've been able to transfer water out of Shoal Lake to Winnipeg without this legislation, why do you need this legislation?"

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: To deal with the whole issue of water transfers from basin to basin into the United States of America, anywhere.

Mr. B. Rae: The minister says "into the United States of America," but then he does not have jurisdiction over water that goes into the USA, first of all. Second of all, if he wants—

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Oh, I might; we might.

Mr. B. Rae: The minister says he might. I would offer him this small piece of constitutional advice. I do not think a whole lot, but let me just say to the minister, if that is—

Mr. Fleet: I do not think a whole lot either, Bob, but that is okay.

Mr. B. Rae: But I do not pretend that I do. That is the difference.

I think it is worth at least pointing out that there is something moderately unnecessary about this entire discussion.

The second point I want to make to the minister is this. My colleagues have pointed this out in their discussion, and I think it has been a very useful discussion, in particular on the GRAND Canal scheme. I think the difference between us and the minister is this: We are not satisfied with a process of purely ministerial regulation. What we are saying is that in the event of new requests for Ontario's water—if there should be such requests and if they should come—it is our judgement that those discussions are ones which we should have on a case-by-case basis and that the minister should be coming back to the House and looking to the House for authorization and looking to the House for discussion, rather than simply going off and doing it on his own.

I do not want to take up a great deal of time in this discussion. I just want to point out the extent to which the government's position has shifted in terms of the purpose and thrust of this bill. I am not for a moment challenging the minister's integrity. All I am saying is that I do not really readily comprehend—and I have done my best—why it is that if the minister says this is really intended to deal with the question of transfers within Canada, and we have in fact already been transferring water within Canada without this legislation, it begs the question: Why do we need this particular legislation at this time?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: As I said before, the sole purpose of this legislation was, so that we could protect, to the degree that this Legislature can, the transfer of water out of our basins and into the USA. The fact that there are other transfers within the province that are legitimate transfers, and transfers to other provinces that are legitimate, as is the one from Shoal Lake to the city of Winnipeg, all of those things make it important

to put in some form of legislation so we can control them where it needs to be controlled.

In the first instance, when it was pointed out that there was really no direct way in the bill of saying there should be no transfers outside Canada, I immediately agreed with the Leader of the Opposition. I found no cause to let him know that I had any other purpose in putting this bill but to protect a very valuable resource.

Now, having said that, I agreed to put into the bill an amendment that would serve the purpose that he asked for. I thought that was just being kind of co-operative in a way that would take into account the feelings of a person who had deep feelings about this export of our water.

I do not know why the third party has difficulty with this, except that the federal government—and, you know, it moved Bill C-130 for some very good reason: It knew that the free trade agreement did not protect our water. It moved such a bill and put it on the floor to be debated. It has not seen fit to put that bill back. What we are doing here is continuing a bill that was on the floor. There seems to be no reason except to do what I am doing as an initiative to make the bill acceptable to the parties on the other side.

I do not expect that much comfort from the Conservatives, because they are not willing to agree that the water is threatened by the free trade agreement. I would hope that the official opposition would in fact support it with the amendment I propose to protect that aspect that they were concerned about, because that is the purpose of the bill and my purpose from day one: to protect this resource.

Mr. Pollock: I would like to answer the minister. Why we have a problem with it is that the water in Ontario has been protected ever since 1981 or 1982. It has nothing to do with the free trade agreement. It has been protected ever since 1982. Mr. Davis signed a historic agreement with the governors of the six states bordering Ontario so there is an agreement in place. So why are we bothering with all this foolishness of this particular bill and giving one person, the Minister of Natural Resources, the authority to sell water? He should not have that authority.

1620

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: We're not going to sell water.

Mr. Pollock: The minister has the authority to do it, or a Minister of Natural Resources has authority to do it. That is what is in the bill.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I read the amendment to you. You can't export water to the United States.

Mr. Pollock: That legislation has been in place ever since 1982.

The Acting Speaker: Are there any further questions or comments? The honourable Leader of the Opposition has two minutes to reply. No reply? Are there any members wishing to participate in the debate? Minister, would you like to reply?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Of course, this has been an interesting debate and I have listened to many members discussing the bill. It appears that all three parties agree on one essential point of the proposed act. We all agree that Ontario should not export its precious water resources outside Canada. That is why I proposed an amendment to the Water Transfer Control Act which clearly states that I, as the Minister of Natural Resources, will not approve any further transfer of water to a place outside Canada. This government is committed to protecting Ontario's precious water resources from export anywhere outside of Canada.

One of the reasons we felt it necessary to seek this protection for Ontario's water supply is because of the free trade agreement the federal government has signed with the United States. I have said before that the free trade agreement places control of Canada's water supply at risk. This government feels that under the free trade agreement water can be considered goods. Many people agree with that position. Therefore, water is a commodity we feel could be exported under the free trade agreement. I disagree with some members opposite who have argued that the federal government has adequately ensured that water will not be treated as goods.

The members opposite are, of course, entitled to their opinion, but I feel that the federal government does not give us that kind of protection. Witness the federal government's introduction of Bill C-156, the Canada Water Preservation Act. Bill C-156 received first reading in August 1988 but died when the federal election was called. The government had plenty of time to reintroduce that bill, which would comfort some people by indicating that the federal government does agree that water is at risk. It has not seen fit to do so.

In introducing Bill 175, the Water Transfer Control Act, we are clearly asserting Ontario's control of water within our provincial boundaries. However, the purpose of the bill is not simply to address the issue of free trade and exports outside Canada. There are other important questions to be addressed by the bill.

The Ontario government must be able to control water transfers within Ontario and from Ontario to another province by having the power to prohibit or approve those transfers. There have been suggestions that we should prohibit all transfers, not just exports outside Canada. I think the leader of the official opposition has already, in a sense, admitted that the transfer to Winnipeg from Shoal Lake in western Ontario is most appropriate, and that when we do it for the benefit of another province it certainly is something we should always consider.

These suggestions ignore this government's responsibility to our citizens and to our fellow Canadians. I have mentioned before that since 1913 Ontario has granted the city of Winnipeg approval to take drinking water from Shoal Lake. If we were to adopt the suggestions of some members that we prohibit all transfers we would not, in fact, be able to continue to assist the city of Winnipeg. If we were to prohibit all transfers, as some members opposite have suggested, then we would not be able to consider water transfers within the province so that water resources in one area of Ontario could be used to assist another area at a time of need.

This government has no intention of putting itself into a position where it cannot even consider offering assistance to its own citizens in other parts of Canada. We have ample evidence of the need to keep our options open when we examine the kind of weather we had this past summer. The dry, hot summer caused severe shortages of water in some parts of the province. Some scientists are predicting significant changes in our climate will continue. If they are correct, the drought we saw last summer may very well continue.

We will need to be able to consider transferring water within the province to battle severe drought and maintain economic activity. Bill 175 gives us just this flexibility. Bill 175 also gives us the control we need to ensure that any water transfers within Ontario or from Ontario to another province are environmentally sound and in the public interest. Proper planning of any proposed water transfer will be required.

This bill clearly provides the province with the ability to prohibit any water transfer that may be detrimental to ensuring a secure water supply for Ontario.

I want to speak briefly to a concern raised by the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman). He has indicated that he feels the bill does not protect aboriginal people. That was an element I want to assure him we have a concern about. It relates to

the rights of the native people, and their rights and the rights of all Ontarians are what this bill is all about.

I also want to briefly address a concern raised about the bill's definition of water. I am moving an amendment that will clearly indicate that only bottled water for human consumption is exempt from Bill 175. All other transfers are covered by this bill.

The intent of Bill 175 is to ensure that there is a secure supply of water for the social, environmental and economic wellbeing of all people in the province now and into the future.

The Water Transfer Control Act and the amendments I am proposing will give Ontario the power to assert control over its precious water resources. I urge members to support the bill on second reading, and I am looking forward to debating and discussing the amendments.

The Acting Speaker: Hon. Mr. Kerrio has moved second reading of Bill 175.

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

Bill ordered for committee of the whole House.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: May I have permission to move down to the front desk with some of our people?

The Acting Speaker: When we get into committee.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: All right.

House in committee of the whole.

1630

WATER TRANSFER CONTROL ACT

Consideration of Bill 175, An Act respecting transfers of Water.

The Deputy Chairman: Are there any comments, questions or amendments which members would like to address? If so, to which sections of the bill?

Mr. Wildman: I have tabled with the clerk a number of amendments to sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 16, 17 and 18. The reason for this is, obviously, that the whole bill needs to be rewritten.

The Deputy Chairman: Does the minister have any amendments to propose? If so, to which sections?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I believe you have a copy of all the amendments we are moving now, do you not?

The Deputy Chairman: For the record, could you indicate the sections to which you have amendments to propose?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I have an amendment to section 1.

The Deputy Chairman: Section 1. Any others?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Section 1, subsection 1(2), subsection 6(2), section 9 and section 17.

The Deputy Chairman: We are dealing first with the member for Algoma's first amendment.

Section 1:

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. Wildman moves that section 1 of the bill be amended by deleting the definitions of "approval," "prescribed" and "regulations."

Mr. Wildman: The reason for the amendment is to carry out the purpose of the bill, which is to ensure that there are no transfers of water out of Ontario. By including "approval," it is explicit, not just implicit, that the bill allows for the minister to give approval for transfers of water, which is, in our view, contrary to the purpose of the bill.

The Deputy Chairman: Is it the pleasure of the committee that the motion carry?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Motion negatived.

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. Wildman moves that section 1 of the bill be amended by deleting, in the definition of "inspector," the words "section 10" and substituting therefor the words "section 4."

Mr. Wildman: The reason for this amendment relates to other amendments we have tabled further on. I do not know whether it is the wish of the House to deal with this now or to stand it down until we see what happens with the other sections. It is really just a change of number.

The Deputy Chairman: It is your motion and I will propose the motion for discussion.

Mr. Wildman: As I said, this is a change of number. We will be putting a number of other amendments to the bill that will strike out other sections of the bill, in which case we will have to change numbers. I really think it would be more sensible to stand this down until we have dealt with the other sections.

The Deputy Chairman: Do we have unanimous consent to stand down this amendment

until we see the disposition of other amendments to be proposed?

Agreed to.

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. Kerrio moves that the definition of "provincial drainage basin" in section 1 of the bill be struck out.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: The reason it should be struck out is that we are going to address the definition later on in the bill.

The Deputy Chairman: Are there any other comments? If not, I will put the question.

All those in favour of Mr. Kerrio's amendment will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Motion agreed to.

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. Kerrio moves that the definition of "water" in section 1 of the bill be struck out and the following substituted therefor:

"'water' means natural surface and ground water in liquid, gaseous or solid state, but does not include spring or mineral water bottled as a beverage for human consumption."

Mr. Wildman: Are we going to debate this?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I have no comments.

Mr. Wildman: Well, I do. I note the minister has left in the gaseous state, which is very appropriate for this place. I would really like to know what the significance is of changing the words "but does not include bottled or otherwise packaged spring water or mineral water" to the words "but does not include spring or mineral water bottled as a beverage for human consumption."

What is the significance of putting in "bottled as a beverage for human consumption" as opposed to not having that in the previous draft? I would just like to have some explanation why that is necessary.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I think it was a matter of clarification. I think there was just some question about the former definition. When we put this one in, there will now be a clear definition; there could be no way to misconstrue how we describe water. I cannot tell the honourable member anything more than that except that there could have been some way to misconstrue the other definition.

1640

Mr. Wildman: Certainly it was not the intention, I am sure, of the bill—although considering the poor drafting it is hard to tell—to

prohibit the sale outside Canada of bottled water, considering the market for mineral water in urban centres across North America, particularly when one considers the concerns many people have about the quality of tap water in some urban centres. There certainly is a market there and we would not want to prohibit the opportunity of entrepreneurs in this province for bottling our very pure water and exporting it into that large market.

We will support this amendment, but I suppose all one can say is that the wording is a little better now than it was before. As far as I can see, it means the same thing.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I think I can add to that. I appreciate where the member is coming from in that concern, but we are going to talk about that later on in another clause when we are talking about prescribing by content size or type of container the amount that can be moved. I think we will address that in clause 17(i).

The Deputy Chairman: Are there any other comments or questions? I will therefore put the question.

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

Motion agreed to.

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. Kerrio moves that section 1 of the bill be amended by adding thereto the following subsection:

"(2) For the purpose of this act, Ontario is divided into four provincial drainage basins as follows:

"1. Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, Lake Huron, Lake Superior and the St. Lawrence River and the part of Ontario the water of which drains into any of them.

"2. The Ottawa River and the part of Ontario the water of which drains into it.

"3. The part of Ontario the water of which drains into the Nelson River.

"4. The part of Ontario the water of which drains into Hudson Bay or James Bay."

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: That might conveniently put at rest some of the concerns, I say to the member for Algoma, that his people have about that GRAND Canal scheme.

Mr. Wildman: I have some real problems with this. I am quite serious about this. I do not see any problems with paragraphs 2 and 3 under subsection 1(2), but paragraphs 1 and 4 do present some problems.

If one is talking about the Great Lakes basin, as in paragraph 1—Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, Lake Huron, Lake Superior and the St. Lawrence

River—it seems to me we are really treading on very thin jurisdictional ground constitutionally here, because I think everyone recognizes with paragraph 1—certainly, Mr. Chairman, coming from Windsor, you would recognize it—that these waters are under the jurisdiction of the International Joint Commission.

The IJC, through treaty arrangement between Canada and the United States since the early part of the century, has been responsible for regulating water levels, water quality and water transfers in the Great Lakes basin. It is significant that when you are looking at the Great Lakes basin, for obvious reasons, Lake Michigan is not included since Lake Michigan is wholly a United States lake.

We know water is transferred out of Lake Michigan into the Chicago area and the Mississippi basin through regulation by the International Joint Commission. Obviously, draining water from Lake Michigan affects Lake Superior and Lake Huron.

It seems to me that as a provincial jurisdiction, we are on very thin ice when we start talking about regulating water in Lake Huron and Lake Superior, certainly, and I would suggest also in Lake Ontario and Lake Erie, as it is under federal and international control through treaty between the United States and Canada. I wonder if this is a proper amendment to be placed before this assembly.

Paragraph 4 of the minister's amendment adding subsection 1(2), defining the drainage basins, presents similar but perhaps less difficult problems in that I suspect our American friends might question whether Hudson Bay is wholly a Canadian lake. I do not know whether they would take the same position with James Bay—I doubt it—but I suspect they might question whether Hudson Bay is not international waters.

Personally, without having studied the whole question of the law of the sea, I would not support such an American view if it were put forward. I would say that Hudson Bay is in fact a Canadian body of water. Then one wonders if it is an Ontario body of water, because not only Ontario but Quebec, Manitoba and the Northwest Territories are included in the lands that share the shoreline of Hudson Bay. Of course, Quebec also shares the shoreline of James Bay.

Is it within our jurisdiction to take it upon ourselves to regulate Hudson Bay and James Bay waters? I do not know how we deal with this question. I really do raise questions about the Great Lakes water basin as it is already subject to

international treaty and is under the control of the International Joint Commission.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I believe that in a sense the member for Algoma raised the question but answered it in the same breath. If there can be transfers from Lake Michigan that are out of our jurisdiction, what we are looking at from the international boundary, what lies within the boundary of Ontario, we feel we should incorporate in the description that those are waters we would not want to see impacted by some arrangement to transfer them out of that area where we feel we do have jurisdiction.

The reason we say the part of Ontario that drains into Hudson Bay or James Bay is that we have examined the areas we feel come under our jurisdiction. The waters of the bay do not, but the waters that drain into them do. I think that is about where we are with those two questions.

Mr. Wildman: I think the minister has answered my concerns with regard to paragraph 4, but I do not think he has answered my concerns with regard to paragraph 1. I reiterate that while I certainly recognize we as a provincial jurisdiction cannot regulate water levels or transfers of water out of Lake Michigan, as it is an American lake, the point still remains that the whole of the Great Lakes basin is under the jurisdiction of the International Joint Commission.

1650

Mr. Sterling: I guess I have the same question. As I understand it, the government is trying to get over the problem in the act with regard to half of Lake Ontario, I assume, or half of Lake Erie, and claiming it has some control over half that water. Is that correct? Is that what the government is trying to do?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Yes. We own that.

Mr. Sterling: Does the minister think the government owns the water in Lake Ontario? The International Joint Commission does not agree with the minister, does it? Has the minister consulted with them on it? Has the International Joint Commission commented on this? I talked to the International Joint Commission about the original bill.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: The International Joint Commission has control over water levels, no question about it. We confer and we agree with them on their jurisdiction. There are responsibilities of different levels of government and different ministries, as in our Ministry of the Environment, which has control over the quality of the water.

We feel we have control over the waters that are within the boundaries of Ontario when it relates to transfers. We do not think we have jurisdiction that controls the levels on the International Joint Commission scale, but we do think that if someone were going to make a major transfer out of a water body that rests within the boundary of Ontario, we would have every right to control it.

Mr. Sterling: The minister really believes that?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Certainly I believe it.

Mr. Sterling: The minister is saying that he is putting a sheet of glass or whatever down the centre of Lake Ontario and that he can stop the transfer of water out of there or that he can stop the transfer of water from the borders of our country going into Lake Michigan and then out the Chicago diversion. Is that what the minister is telling me?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: No. What I am going to say to the member is that, as a lawyer, he would put down a sheet of glass and it would not hold up that much water. As a contractor, I would put up something more substantial if I had to do that control. I am not saying that at all.

What I am saying is that if there were an intrusion on areas within the bounds of the Great Lakes that rest within Ontario, we have every right to control the transfers from that part of the lake. I am not suggesting we can do anything on the American side. I am only saying that where the line is drawn and where we have the jurisdiction over that water, we can in fact decide if there should be any transfers.

We are saying in this bill we are not going to transfer any into the United States of America, for instance. We think we have the right to do that.

Mr. Wildman: I do not want to take the time from the member for Carleton, but I think we are both in agreement with the problem here. Frankly, Mr. Chairman, I believe subsection 1(2), paragraph 1, to be out of order. It is not in order to be placed before us, and I would ask you to rule whether it is in order. I think this is unconstitutional.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: May I make another comment?

The Deputy Chairman: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: This is how it reads, and I will read it carefully: "For the purposes of this act, Ontario is divided into four provincial drainage basins as follows," and it describes the four drainage basins. I do not think in this part of

the bill that it is in any way unconstitutional. It is very clear. It just describes the basins more clearly than the original bill.

Mr. Sterling: Could I ask the minister—

The Deputy Chairman: On the point of order. You are attempting to assist me with respect to a point of order.

Mr. Sterling: No, I am not. I have no comment on that.

Mr. Fleet: Is the point of order whether the bill is in order or whether the bill is constitutional? Frankly, I do not understand clearly what the objection is about.

The Deputy Chairman: The point of order is to the effect that the proposed amendment is out of order by reason of its unconstitutionality. I will say in response that it is not the function of the chair to rule on the constitutionality or legality of any particular section proposed by way of amendment. Therefore, I will treat the amendment as in order. If there is no further discussion, I will put the question.

Mr. Sterling: Just a minute. I have discussion on the amendment.

Can the minister clarify for me? He divides Ontario into four drainage basins. When I read other sections, do the other sections refer to these four particular areas in terms of his control of the transfer of water, or do they refer to other ways of defining what water he is controlling?

For instance, section 4 reads: "The minister may approve a transfer of water out of a provincial drainage basin subject to such conditions and subject to the payment to the crown," etc. Is that referring to one of these four areas?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: We are just looking at redefining the basins so that they are specific.

Mr. Sterling: I think it is important. Is the minister in the position of trying to tell us that he is going to control the transfer of water out of the harbour at Toronto? Is that what he is trying to tell us, that he is going to control that? Is that what he is saying?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Yes, what we are talking about here is to describe in this bill the basins out of which we can control the transfers. If someone asks to transfer water from Toronto harbour into the USA, our bill says, "No way, you can't do that." If we were going to ask to transfer water from some part of that basin to a need within Ontario or another jurisdiction, that again would be something we could do. I do not think that is difficult to understand.

The answer to the member's question is yes, we feel that whatever lies within the bounds of

the area from the international division in Ontario, this bill will cover the transfer of those waters within those basins and those descriptions.

Mr. Sterling: If the minister takes this particular position, would it not then be arguable, on the part of New York state, for instance, on the other side of Lake Ontario to say, "We control the water in our half of the lake and therefore we can take a gallon of water out of our side of the lake"? Does the minister agree that they can do that?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Certainly. They can do that right now if they have the approval of the International Joint Commission. That is the function of the International Joint Commission, to control the water levels. Anyone who wants to take any major supply of water out of the basin, whether it be on the US side or on our side, certainly would have to comply with some kind of restriction. They did not divert the water through Chicago and into the Mississippi basin without approval from an international agreement.

I am only suggesting that when we talk about transfers of what water rests within the bounds of Ontario, that would be a decision that would be made by our province under this bill. If they attempted to make a major diversion on the US side, then that certainly would be the business of the International Joint Commission where it relates to water levels.

Mr. Sterling: Then what would be the minister's function with regard to the taking of that water? Would he have any function at all?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Certainly. I think that if we were to go into a transfer of water where it impacts on the water levels, then there would have to be another involvement with other parties that have some say in that matter. We are doing this to have a description, so we know what bodies we are talking about. It would be at our discretion to be able to move to the benefit of Ontarians what lies strictly within the bounds of these basins and does not impact on international water levels.

Mr. Sterling: If the International Joint Commission said to New York state, "You can divert water over the objections of Ontario," could the minister stop it?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: No, I doubt that we could. Those international agreements are through the International Joint Commission and international agreements are to be made at that level.

Mr. Wildman: The comment that was just made by the minister points out the whole problem. The IJC has jurisdiction. If the IJC were to approve a water diversion out of any of the Great Lakes, out of the Great Lakes basin into the United States, the provincial government could do nothing. So why on earth are we even talking about it in this bill?

1700

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I see there is a bit of confusion here and I am doing my best to see if we cannot understand it. What I am saying is that if there was to be some kind of movement of water by us within Ontario and it was at a low level and it would impact somehow on water levels to the detriment of the international scene, there would be some question about whether we could do it. We would have to conform to agreements that are made internationally. If there were no impact on the water levels, we would then go forward.

Remember always in the back of this bill, and we have not come to that amendment yet, the main purpose of the bill is to protect us against transfers of water into the United States.

Mr. Harris: I would like to see if the minister can clarify something for us, just for the sake of whether realistically this bill means anything or not.

The minister would agree that if somebody wanted to remove water, from the US side or perhaps the Soviet Union from the north, that if it is its part of the boundary water—and the minister seems to be only concerned about the US, which is typical of his government—he would have no jurisdiction and this bill would not apply. It is defining the boundaries of the waters within Ontario, I think he said. This bill then is to protect us from ourselves.

Originally, in the bill, of course, it appeared as if the government wanted to do it. Now the amendment, I understand, will prohibit the minister from doing it because he is saying it is no longer for sale, as he indicated it was when he first introduced it. This is to protect us from Ontarians themselves. It is saying, "Here are the boundaries that fall within the jurisdiction of Ontario." This bill will allow us to say to fellow Ontarians and to ourselves, "You can't do this." Is that what it is really saying?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: No, I think the whole act is not for the purpose of putting us at a disadvantage. I cannot imagine how that came into the discussion.

I very carefully described the relationship between this bill and our will, first, not to allow

water to go into the US out of our basin; and, second, to control transfers if they impact in a way that is not to the advantage of the people of Ontario. There are other elements that would impact on it, as the International Joint Commission and the international treaties would impact on this. If the Americans wanted to transfer water out of the basin, they certainly could not do it because of their own—the state of Michigan cannot move more water out of Lake Michigan without approval from the International Joint Commission.

What we are saying is—

Mr. Harris: This bill isn't to deal with that. This is to deal with—

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: No. What we are saying is, everyone plays by that set of rules that relate to water levels. What we are saying is that we have jurisdiction. If there were going to be a major shift of water out of our basin into the United States, we could say no, even if it did not affect the water levels and the International Joint Commission might not object to it because it did not interfere with water levels. We are saying it cannot be taken out of our basin no matter what.

Mr. Harris: Let me try to clarify what it is we could do. If it is the US pulling it out, the IJC from US waters—or let's say it is a Soviet gallon of water because it falls within its boundaries, there we would rely on international agreements to say, "If you pull that gallon of water out there, it will suck a gallon of our water across your border." That would be federal jurisdiction.

I wonder, as farfetched as it may seem—because I am trying to understand whether this bill does anything—would it be the minister's contention that if he wanted to—let's say the IJC said, "We'll approve," and the federal government said, "We'll approve of this transfer" or "We'll allow Michigan to pull water out"—this bill would give the minister the power, if he had the resources, to build a retaining wall along the whole wall of the boundaries of Ontario so that when they suck out their gallon, our gallon does not suck into their jurisdiction? Does it give the minister that authority?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: No, I did not say that it did.

Mr. Harris: I am trying to indicate what it does give us, or trying to find out.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: It clarifies what water we have control over; that's what it does.

Mr. Sterling: Well, it does not, and that is the problem here. What the minister and his staff have done is take the arguments of the opposition, which came forward on November 10 when

we pointed out in this Legislature what a farce this piece of legislation was because it did not deal with the Great Lakes, and now what they are trying to do is fudge the definition so that the people of Ontario will have some kind of idea that in fact the sham that is being perpetrated on them is not a sham.

Really what we have here is a worsening of the legislation, because what it is saying, or what the minister is allegedly saying, is that he is now including half of Lake Ontario, half of Lake St. Clair, half of Lake Erie, half of Lake Huron and half of Lake Superior, and he is giving the impression that somehow he has some power over the fact that the water can be drained out of those particular portions. He is giving it in terms of the definition when in fact he has no power whatsoever to do that. Therefore, I really find this particular amendment offensive.

Mr. Wildman: I am trying to understand how the minister thinks this will work. As I understand what he said, if the IJC were to approve the transfer of water, let's say, for the sake of argument, from Lake Michigan into the Mississippi basin, but at the same time maintain the levels of Lake Superior and Lake Huron within the range that the IJC has agreed upon, so it could be approved by the IJC even though it meant water would be coming out of Lake Superior and Lake Huron, this government could say, "Sure, the level is being maintained within the range that the IJC approves, but we are against Lake Huron water or Lake Superior water going into Lake Michigan, so we will stop it even if the IJC has approved it."

Is that what the minister is saying? If he is not saying that, I do not think any of us here, including the minister, knows what he is saying.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I do absolutely know what I am saying. The member has drawn his kind of scenario that is not appropriate to the bill. What he is saying is that if the Americans wanted to draw water out of their side and the International Joint Commission said it was okay, we would still have good reason to argue on behalf of Canada about the appropriateness of that.

What I am saying is that if in fact there were an agreement that there could be someone take water from our side and the International Joint Commission did not oppose it, we could oppose it and say that water cannot be transferred to the United States.

We are not talking about shifting in the lake. We are talking about a major transfer of water with a pipeline or something. Because all the criteria of the International Joint Commission

were met and it did not affect the water levels, we could have somebody come over here, tap our water on our side and pipe it into the US if we did not have this bill.

We feel now that water is in our jurisdiction. If the IJC said, "Yes, it's not going to affect the shipping or anything else and the water levels," and there is an okay by the IJC to take water from our side of the border, we could say no because of this bill. Otherwise, we cannot.

Mr. Wildman: I think I understand what the minister is saying now. He is saying that, in his interpretation, if some firm or some individual were to put in a pipeline on the north shore of Lake Huron that goes across the international boundary and shifts water into the United States, Ontario could say no. However, if that same individual or firm were to put in a pipeline on the south shore of Lake Huron and take the same water out of Lake Huron, of course we would have nothing to say about it.

1710

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I guess the member is right.

Mr. Wildman: So what on earth is he attempting to do? They are still lowering Lake Huron. They are still taking water out of Lake Huron, but it is okay if they take it from the American side but not if they take it from our side. That is what is so silly about this proposed amendment.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I do not think it is silly. The member is making a suggestion or a comment now that is silly, that we should attempt to control water transfers within the continental United States of America. We are saying we can only control what is taken out of Canadian water and Ontario water.

Mr. Wildman: But it is international water.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: No, not what is within our jurisdiction. This bill will control any export of that water and that is what we are here to do. As I said before, this does not necessarily have to come out of one of the Great Lakes, but for the same reason that the free trade agreement could agree that water was a good, they could take it from somewhere else in Ontario, an adjunct to one of the rivers or our waterways. The fact remains that we can control, by this bill, the water that lies within the territorial jurisdiction of Ontario.

The Deputy Chairman: Is there any other discussion? If not, I will put the motion.

Mr. Wildman: Can we split it up and vote by subsection?

The Deputy Chairman: Is it the pleasure of the committee that the motion carry?

Mr. Wildman: No.

The Deputy Chairman: All those in favour will please say "aye."

Mr. Wildman: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman: Can we not vote on each item individually?

The Deputy Chairman: We have an amendment before us and the chair can entertain an amendment to the amendment if you so wish. I can take them seriatim starting with paragraph 1.

Mr. Wildman: Agreed.

The Deputy Chairman: Agreed?

Mr. Wildman: No; agreed that you do it that way.

The Deputy Chairman: All right. Dealing first with each of the four paragraphs.

Paragraph 1: Is it the pleasure of the committee that the paragraph carry?

All those in favour say "aye."

All those opposed say "nay."

Carried.

Is it the pleasure of the committee that paragraph 2 carry?

All those in favour say "aye."

All those opposed say "nay."

Carried.

Is it the pleasure of the committee that paragraph 3 carry?

Carried.

Paragraph 4: All those in favour say "aye."

All those opposed say "nay."

Carried.

Dealing now with the whole, is it the pleasure of the committee that the amendment carry?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

Motion agreed to.

The Deputy Chairman: Are there any further amendments to section 1, apart from that amendment by the member for Algoma which we said we would stand down until all sections had been dealt with? There are no further amendments? Then we will move to section 2.

Section 2:

Mr. Wildman: moves that section 2 of the bill be amended by deleting the words "without the written approval of the minister."

Mr. Wildman: This, in our view, is the key section of the bill and it is our key amendment. It

relates to subsection 16(1) as well, because it deals with the contradiction in the bill of what the principle of the bill purports to be; that is, that the minister could indeed approve the transfer of water outside the country when in fact he said the purpose of the bill was to prevent the transfer of water outside the country.

We just cannot accept that a bill written in a way to allow for transfers is somehow really a bill to prevent transfers. That is why we are removing the reference to approval by the minister.

Mr. Sterling: I would like to understand the argument why the minister needs the authority to approve of transfers. Is there some logic or reason behind that?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Why the minister needs approval for transfers?

Mr. Sterling: Authority to approve transfers.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Because we have other conditions where the transfer might be in order, we would want that ability, within the bounds of Ontario, with our sister provinces. I think we have clarified that now.

The Deputy Chairman: Further discussion?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay"

In my opinion the nays have it.

Motion negatived.

The Deputy Chairman: Shall section 2 stand as part of the bill?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those in favour will please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Section 2 agreed to.

Section 3:

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment tabled to delete section 3. I recognize that you will probably rule this out of order.

We will be voting against section 3, because again, it allows for the approval of transfer of water out of the provincial drainage basin on the submission of plans, reports, studies and other information prescribed by and requested by, the minister. In other words, again, it is the opposite of the purpose of the bill. It allows for approval of transfer of water when the bill is supposed to prevent the transfer of water. I recognize you may rule it out of order, and I tell you now that we will be voting against the section.

The Deputy Chairman: The member is correct. An amendment to leave out a clause is not in order and the proper disposition is to vote against the clause standing as part of the bill.

We now have section 3. Are there any other amendments proposed to section 3?

Mr. Harris: No. I would like to speak to section 3, though. I would like to ask the minister how his amendment, subsection 6(2)—

Mr. Sterling: What section is that?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: We are not there yet.

Mr. Sterling: I know, but what is that amendment that—

Mr. Harris: I have an amendment, government motion, subsection 6(2).

Mr. Sterling: What section is that?

Mr. Harris: Where does that come in?

Mr. Wildman: That is on section 6. We are on section 3.

1720

Mr. Harris: Yes. Just for the interest of the minister and so that we do not get caught up here, the reason I am bringing it up now is that section 3 says, "A person who requests approval to transfer water out of a provincial drainage basin shall submit to the minister plans, reports, studies and other information as are prescribed or as may be requested by the minister."

If we carry that section, I am wondering whether the minister's amendment will be allowed to be in order. I am trying to clarify that, because further on he has moved an amendment that will say, "Despite the trade agreement"—and all that garbage that is irrelevant—"or any law of Canada implementing the agreement"—here is the operative part—"the minister shall refuse to give approval to a transfer of water out of a provincial drainage basin to a place outside Canada."

This is the operative amendment here that says if somebody applies to the minister, he shall refuse. I guess I do not understand why, if he wants to carry this amendment further down saying somebody applies or submits some plans to him, if he passes this amendment—of course, it is the amendment we have all been saying should be in the bill, and simply that is it and nothing else, but if he wants to pass this amendment when somebody applies or makes a request, this is his answer. If in fact this is what he is trying to move later on, he holds this up and he says: "There is no point applying. There is no point in spending thousands and thousands or hundreds of thousands or millions of dollars presenting a plan for this great diversion, because this bill further on says 'I shall refuse.'"

I do not understand why section 3 needs to be part of the bill any longer.

Mr. Haggerty: In the minister's opinion.

Mr. Harris: It is important we understand this. The member says something about "in the minister's opinion." I do not see anything about the minister's opinion.

Mr. Haggerty: It is in the bill.

Mr. Harris: I will read section 3 to him just so—

Mr. Haggerty: It is in section 6.

Mr. Harris: Subsection 6(2) says that "the minister shall refuse to give approval to a transfer of water out of a provincial drainage basin to a place outside Canada." There is no "in the minister's opinion." This is the amendment that was brought forward by the minister in response to the fact that the government's bill really did not do anything and in fact was hastily or poorly drafted and/or the minister gave silly directions to the staff.

The minister has a section 3 that says when somebody applies he must present this comprehensive set of plans, must go out, etc. Further on in the bill, it says when somebody applies, the minister must refuse.

I guess I would be worried but if he wants section 3 in there—the section 6 amendment he wants to move later, really without that amendment he is going to be very embarrassed with this bill because that is the crux of the bill now. We would spend more than we did on Sunday shopping if he did not have this amendment, because what he originally proposed was, "Sure, it's all for sale and here are the rules."

I suggest the minister drop and delete section 3 or join us in voting against it. That will take it out. That is not the nicest way to do it but that would work so that we can all get to subsection 6(2) which is the operative section. We told him for the last four months that is the only thing that makes sense.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: It is obvious the member does not understand the reason for it and I should explain it to him very carefully. Obviously, the member for Algoma does not either, so he should listen carefully so I do not have to tell him 25 times.

We have set in the bill and in the address here, which he was not privileged to and may be why he does not know what he is talking about. The fact of the matter is we have two very important elements of the bill. One, we do not want to transfer water from our basins to the United States, which is covered under subsection 6(2). Okay?

That having been said, what we are looking for when someone applies to us to transfer water from one basin to another within Ontario—or, for instance, in the arrangement we have with Shoal Lake, to Winnipeg—is that they then will have to tell us what they would do with any transfer. If we were to find out that transfer approval was going to have water find itself going to another jurisdiction we did not approve of, we would need section 3 to control the interchange of water from basin to basin within Ontario and where we might appropriately be able to give water to a sister province.

If they came in there and were requesting approval for shipping water to the US, we would say: "Look at subsection 6(2). Don't even bother submitting." But we have to be very careful. If they were to request an approval of transfer, we had better know where the water is going to go. That is the reason for those two.

Mr. Harris: The minister has clarified something. Just so I understand, what he is saying is that he is prepared to entertain the sale of Ontario water to a sister province. So to go ahead, if someone wants to transfer this water out of the provincial basin, he is prepared—I did not say he would approve—to entertain those proposals, but clearly and unequivocally, he is not prepared to propose that any other country—if any other country asks, no way, but if another province asks—

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Now you've got it. I knew you were a quick learner.

Mr. Harris: No, it is fine. I am a provincial politician and quite frankly I am not going to vote against section 3. To me, as an Ontarian, if this bill is to protect Ontario's interests, it does not make a lot of sense to me to say to the Americans, no way; Russia, no way; Europe, no way. I do not know how this is covered. If you suck out the Atlantic Ocean and that sucks it down the St. Lawrence and everything else, maybe there is something there too. I do not know. Maybe the government will build its dike up so that cannot happen.

But I will tell the minister that I do not have a strong desire, on behalf of the people of Ontario, to entertain the sale of Ontario water. The minister does. He says it is permitted within Canada, but if the water is eventually going to end up outside Canada, that is not permitted.

I understand what the minister is doing now. I did not believe water was for sale to other provinces, but now I understand that it is and he has clarified why he wants the two sections.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: You can work anything you try to work into a particular bill if you so choose. What I am saying, and I will say it as many times as it needs to be said, is that the bill is to protect our resource from going into the USA. That is the prime purpose of the bill.

Number two, if there is going to be water transferred to another jurisdiction, which is being done right now, there need to be some charges for costs. We should not expect that we would be supplying water for free to another jurisdiction. Would the member?

I am suggesting that could be, in a sense, just a matter of controlling that whole process of taking it from one basin to another. If it is going to do someone some good, then they are going to pay the charges for doing the transfers and those kinds of things. I am just putting the ability in there to do what is fair to protect the people in Ontario. Would the member not do that? Would he suggest that I should say we would transfer water anywhere in Canada free of charge? Is that the member's suggestion?

I am protecting the people of Ontario to make sure the resource is protected, but also to have a will so that if a sister province requires some assistance, we are prepared to do that. I cannot find much wrong with that.

Mr. Sterling: In essence, what the minister is saying is that if the city of Montreal runs short of water, we are willing to transfer and sell our water to Montreal out of, let's say, the Raisin River or the Rideau River or whatever, whereas if the city of Buffalo runs short of water and we have a surplus of water, he would not sell it to Buffalo. But basically, what he is saying is that our water is for sale.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I would like to respond to that. It is obvious that the member and his federal counterparts are not prepared to say that water, Canadian water, Ontario water, is up for grabs. The member is prepared to say it is a good. Under the free trade agreement it could be traded. We are saying no way. We are saying that if there are other jurisdictions in Canada that require some help—

Mr. Sterling: Show me the clause where it says that in the free trade agreement.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: But in section 6, and read it carefully, it says:

"The minister shall refuse to give approval to a transfer of water out of a provincial drainage basin if, in the minister's opinion, the transfer may be detrimental to ensuring a secure water supply for Ontario or Canada or any part thereof."

Those decisions had to be made. I cannot believe that the member's analogy makes any sense at all, because Quebec happens to have all kinds of fresh water which it is using for power development. Not only can it supply Montreal, but in all probability it can have the power and pumps to get it there.

1730

Mr. Harris: I would like to move on, but I cannot let the minister get up and, in answering the question that was put by the member for Carleton, start talking about the federal government or what is realistic or what is possible. I do not think that I need to defend the federal government. Clearly, it has said water is not for sale. However, let us not debate that.

What the member for Carleton said very clearly to the minister—and we just want the minister to say, "Yes, that is our understanding of the bill," or "No, it is not," because we are trying to understand—was that we have all kinds of water, there is no problem, we have more than we need, and if Montreal needs water, the minister would entertain, and this legislation would allow him to sell water to Montreal or to Winnipeg.

However, should Duluth, Minnesota, or should Buffalo or should an American city—and we have all kinds of water, a surplus of water; we do not need it; it is there with everything else—should they need some water because all their people are dying in the streets, there is no way we would sell water under those circumstances.

Mr. Sterling: We cannot.

Mr. Harris: He cannot do that. He cannot do it there, but it is for sale, under certain circumstances, to sister provinces or cities in the jurisdiction. Are we correct in that understanding?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I find that the debate sometimes—

Mr. McGuigan: Such a situation would never exist. You know it.

Mr. Harris: If this never exists, then what do we need this stupid bill for?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Why did the Conservative members' government in Ottawa think it needed one—a similar-type bill—and let it die on the order paper? It was because they realized—

Mr. Harris: Because it had an election and everybody was misinterpreting, so it did the same thing. It said, "We will pass this just to make everybody happy."

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I do not believe that. I believe it is more responsible than that. What we are talking about here—and we have to continually go back to the initiative that we are trying to put in this legislation—the fact of the matter is, we are protecting against water being used as a good under the free trade agreement. We happen to be totally opposed to that.

One of the members of the official opposition got up and talked about the GRAND Canal scheme and all those things. I want to tell the members something: We are totally opposed to that kind of use of the resource that originates in this province.

Mr. Harris: Is my understanding correct that we are not opposed to trading water as a good to Quebec or to Manitoba?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: That is not the point at all. The point of the matter is that the main purpose of the bill is as I described it. Under section 6, the first purpose of protecting that resource is for the people of Ontario. If, in fact, we can be helpful to other Canadian jurisdictions, we have said it many times. We are prepared to do that under the circumstances where it is appropriate.

Mr. Harris: Under those conditions, our water is for sale.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: We also want to protect that water from being diverted somewhere. That is why there has to be a plan when they ask for our help.

Mr. Harris: But under those conditions, our water is for sale? Under the conditions you just described, to our sister provinces, Ontario water is for sale, right? Is that what the minister is saying?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: That is what section 3 is all about.

Mr. Harris: Under all the conditions and circumstances?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: The member should sit through these bills. It was not long ago I said that we are there to be able to control it, depending on the costs. But nothing stops us from giving it to Winnipeg, as we do. That is not the point of the bill. The point of the bill is so that we can control the appropriateness of doing what is to be done, and the bill does not say there have to be charges.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Under your original bill, you were going to give it to the Americans.

Mr. Sterling: Under section 3, of the bill, which we are considering—

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Oh, no, never. No, I have said this many times. If you guys don't want to

believe it, it is one thing, but don't confuse any purpose of the bill. You have done it too many times and it is not appropriate.

Mr. Sterling: I am having a little difficulty. It says: "A person who requests approval to transfer water out of a provincial drainage basin shall submit to the minister plans, reports, studies and other information as are prescribed or as may be requested by the minister."

The minister has said that is necessary if you are going to transfer water from one basin to another basin within Ontario, but he has also indicated that this specific clause allows the transfer or the sale of water from our province to another province should it need it and should it request it. It is just a matter of whom he is selling or transferring the water to.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: The member is insisting I say "sell," and I will not do that. The member is not going to sucker me into that.

Mr. Harris: Okay.

The Deputy Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Harris: I am not trying to sucker the minister. No, I am not.

The Deputy Chairman: Can I have some order here, please? Could you please shut off the microphone there, please?

Mr. Harris: You've been suckered.

Mr. Sterling: You've been suckered.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: You have.

The Deputy Chairman: This is not a private conversation. This is a public proceeding. Could you please address your remarks through the chair and be recognized before you speak. Now, the member for Nipissing has the floor.

Mr. Harris: I do not want to sucker the minister. He has been well enough suckered in a number of areas since he has been in his portfolio, and all from within.

Let me put it another way, because I think the minister was trying to tell me that it is possible for it to be for sale, but he is not going to say those words. The water is either potentially for sale or to be given away free. That seemed to be what the minister was trying to say. Is that correct?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I am only going to say it once more. First, I said the purpose of the bill is to stop water from being shipped to the United States of America.

Second, we have to be very careful. When someone else in another provincial jurisdiction would require water, we have the option to be able to supply him. No charges that are suggested have to be made. If there are some costs

involved, I would expect that the members over there, who keep screaming about not spending money and balancing the budget, would not want me to pay the cost of shipping the water somewhere else.

The fact is that, very clearly, the bill says that if we want to transfer from one basin to another, and it is for the purposes of some company to use it for cooling water or something, it would be expected to pay some kind of cost for doing that.

If it is another city that needs water badly during a time of drought when people are dying on the streets, as the member described it, which I refuse to do, we could then share that water with it without charge. I would not expect that we should not have the ability to decide where it is appropriate to do that, all the while taking into account that my prime responsibility, as minister, is to see that the water supply for Ontario and the citizens here is of paramount importance and number one priority.

The Deputy Chairman: I will put the question. Shall section 3 stand as part of the bill?

Section 3 agreed to.

Section 4:

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Chairman, I will withdraw the amendment I placed on the table because I know you will rule it out of order. It was to delete a section. I will just say now that we will probably be voting against this unless the minister can explain when it says, "The minister may approve a transfer of water out of a... drainage basin subject to such conditions and subject to the payment to the crown of such amount as the minister considers appropriate."

First, can the minister assure us that this does not allow for transfers outside of Canada? Second, if that is the case, under what kinds of conditions would the minister approve transfers of waters within Canada?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I think that has been the basis of the discussion that has just taken place. I want to give the member the assurance that under subsection 6(2), that water cannot in any way be sent directly, diverted or whatever.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: So before the new 6(2) it could have happened?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Yes, I appreciate what the member is saying, and of course, I hope he will accept the fact that is going into the bill.

When we talk about conditions on the transfer—the member should have read that before he got so involved with his questioning—it actually says, "Subject to the payment to the crown of such amount as the minister considers appropriate,"

which in some instances might be very little or nothing.

1740

Mr. Wildman: I am not trying to prolong this. I did ask the minister if he could tell us what kinds of conditions.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: What charge?

Mr. Wildman: No, not the charge. It says, "Subject to such conditions and subject to the payment to the crown of such amount as the minister considers appropriate." I am not dealing with the payment question; I am dealing with the conditions. Under what kinds of conditions would the minister approve transfers within Canada?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I would think, when we look at conditions, that there could be a number of conditions we might ask them to comply with in the transfer of water. It could be, "How long do you want it?" "How it is going to be transported?" and "What kind of circumstance will the water be used in?" Those kinds of things. I think the conditions we might ask for would be appropriate to the timing, those kinds of conditions that would be appropriate.

The Deputy Chairman: Thank you. Can I now put the question?

Section 4 agreed to.

Section 5:

Mr. Wildman: I withdraw my amendment, Mr. Chairman, on the basis of the fact that you will rule it out of order anyway.

The Deputy Chairman: Discussion on section 5?

Shall section 5 stand as part of the bill?

All those in favour will say "aye."

All those opposed say "nay."

I declare it carried.

Section 5 agreed to.

Section 6:

The Deputy Chairman: The member for Algoma has an amendment to section 6.

Mr. Wildman: Again, I am withdrawing this amendment, but I would like to ask a question of the minister with regard to section 6.

According to section 6, "The minister shall refuse to give approval to a transfer of water out of a provincial drainage basin if, in the minister's opinion, the transfer may be detrimental to ensuring a secure water supply for Ontario or Canada or any part thereof."

If this bill is really designed, as the minister says it is, to deal only with approvals within

Canada, how could a transfer of water within Canada be detrimental to securing water supply for Canada?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Relating to a question that was previously raised, the transfer of water from within our area to out of it—say, to another province—this would be the only time I think we would have a legitimate reason to refuse a transfer out of the basin to accommodate a sister province, if that put into jeopardy the supply of water to the people in Ontario. Basically, I think that is the very prime purpose of that part of the bill.

Mr. Wildman: In that case, I would move an amendment to delete the words “or Canada” after the word “Ontario” in this section.

The Deputy Chairman: We require the amendment in writing.

Mr. Wildman: Okay.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I can accept that. I think I have made the case in many instances that we are here to make absolutely certain that the resource basically and fundamentally belongs to the people of Ontario. I do not think we would ever stand in the way of a reasonable request from any province that might look to our help but I think, on the basis of what the member for Algoma has described, we have to ensure a secure water supply for Ontario as a basic principle.

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. Wildman moves that section 6 of the bill be amended by deleting the words “or Canada” after the word “Ontario.”

Motion agreed to.

The Deputy Chairman: Still dealing with section 6, there is a government amendment.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Yes. I guess it took us a while to get here, but I think this may be the most important and significant part of the bill.

The Deputy Chairman: Hon. Mr. Kerrio moves that section 6 of the bill be amended by adding thereto the following subsection:

“(2) Despite the trade agreement signed on the second day of January, 1988, by the government of Canada and the government of the United States of America or any law of Canada implementing the agreement, the minister shall refuse to give approval to a transfer of water out of a provincial drainage basin to a place outside Canada.”

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I think that part of the bill is self-explanatory and I will leave it to the members interested to make comments.

Mr. Wildman: This amendment basically says what the minister all along has claimed the

bill says. Frankly, I think it is unfortunate that it did not just say this straightforwardly without all the other additional paraphernalia. What this amendment does is to try to challenge any law passed by Canada or agreement between Canada and the United States which would transfer water from Ontario to the United States.

It is interesting, though, that this amendment does not deal with transfers of water into some other jurisdiction, perhaps through the United States. I wonder why it does not do that, but maybe that is covered by the amendment as it stands. If we are trying to prevent the export of water outside of Canada, why would we not also try to ensure that there were not transfers, for instance, to Mexico via the US?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I think that most people would accept the fact that the way it is written, the last part of sentence, “the minister shall refuse to give approval to a transfer of water out of a provincial drainage basin to a place outside Canada,” should pretty well cover the concern the member for Algoma has.

Mr. Sterling: Can the minister answer a question for me? If the city of Rochester and the city of Buffalo wanted to take some water out of one of our Great Lakes, does he think they are going to ask him for his approval?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: No.

Mr. Sterling: Could the minister then tell me under what circumstances any American state, jurisdiction or municipality would ever ask him for his approval for water?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: If they wanted to take it from our jurisdiction. I thought we went through all this.

Mr. Sterling: And where would they be taking it from in our jurisdiction? Where would it be applicable? I mean, this points to the whole farce of this legislation. The fact of the matter is that any state or municipality that wanted to take water from our borders of Ontario would not be asking this minister for his approval because the minister has nothing to do with it. Therefore, we have a bill which does nothing, which is a joke and which, with this amendment, does not even mean anything.

1750

The Deputy Chairman: Minister?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: The member for Algoma can go ahead.

Mr. Wildman: Okay. I think the point the member for Carleton is making is that if some American city on the south side of one of the

Great Lakes were to take water from the lake, inevitably that means water from the Ontario side of the international boundary is going to move over to the American side of the international boundary, unless we do as the member for Nipissing suggested and build some sort of retaining wall all along the international boundary through the Great Lakes, which would be an enormous undertaking and certainly would make a lot of work in this jurisdiction.

I think it would play havoc with lake navigation, though. I do not think it would be too conducive to the use of the seaway in the future. Perhaps we could navigate around the wall within the Great Lakes, but how on earth would we ever navigate around such a retaining wall in the St. Lawrence, St. Clair or St. Marys rivers?

The Deputy Chairman: Is there any other discussion? The minister.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: The member for Nipissing can go ahead. I will respond to everyone.

Mr. Harris: I just want to ask the minister so that I will be clear about the awesome power this bill gives him, and I would like to use the example of the Americans. Let's take Rochester. My geography on the United States side is not very good.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: It is a town on Lake Ontario on the US side, about the centre, a little bit removed from the lake.

Mr. Harris: Yes, but if Rochester, for example, wanted to take water or needed some water from the Great Lakes for whatever reason, this bill would prohibit it from building, say, an intake pipe all the way across its water and then into our part of the water. They could not do that without the minister's permission.

So that we are aware of the awesome power this bill gives him, can the minister think of any circumstance where they would want to build this pipeline over, under or around all of their water? The reason I mentioned geography is I do not know how many miles they would have to go to get through all of their water before they could get to Ontario water. But can he think of any reason why the city would want to spend the extra millions or billions to build the pipeline that far across all its water, which it could take anyway, to get into our water? If the minister can think of a circumstance like that which is possible anywhere, then his bill might mean something.

Mr. McGuigan: They're going to get clean water.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: My fellow legislator has come up with an excellent answer, and I think it

is very appropriate. In some cases it might be to get better water.

I think in terms of some of the very basics of hydrology, where you would in fact find it more appropriate to take water from a higher place to be able to get it to the place that you need it cheaper, because the access point might be to your advantage to do that. Instead of pumping, you could supply it by gravity. If an American company came over here and found a supply that was very advantageous that it could just—

Mr. Sterling: That is what you should have done and embarrassed them.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: The member can talk about it, and we go right back to the original argument: Use it as a good to be traded in any way they see fit, which the federal government is prepared to allow. They decided they would put a bill in so that it could not happen. Then when the election came and went, they dropped it and let it die on the order paper.

We never, ever dropped this bill. Everybody said: "What are you doing back here again? The election is over. You don't need it any more." Do they not realize that we need it more than ever now that the free trade agreement has passed and the federal government is allowing water to be traded as a good? The thing that we can do to stop that should be done here with all of the powers that we have. Sure, there are other jurisdictions, the International Joint Commission, other people involved. We are doing everything we can as a government to protect a very important resource.

I feel that down deep the members think it is appropriate that we do that. I do not know for what reasons they might make the kind of observations that we are not doing everything that can be done under the circumstances. Indeed, we are doing something that will protect the water supply for Ontarians.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: As a Metropolitan Toronto member, I am just tantalized by the nuances that are within this. I want to be clear on this. The minister can now stop, through this particular amendment—referring to the basins included in paragraph 1, which is the Great Lakes themselves including Lake Ontario—the Americans from building a pipeline to the foot of the Humber River or the Don River and taking any of that water across to the American side. That is what the minister can do, but he cannot stop them from taking the water out from a higher level on the other side of the lake at the Buffalo harbour. Have I followed this?

The Deputy Chairman: Shall the amendment stand as part of the bill?

Motion agreed to.

The Deputy Chairman: Shall section 6, as amended, stand as part of the bill?

Section 6, as amended, agreed to.

Section 7:

The Deputy Chairman: Shall section 7 stand as part of the bill?

All those in favour of section 7 remaining part of the bill will please say "aye."

All those opposed will say "nay."

I declare the section carried.

Section 7 agreed to.

Section 8:

The Deputy Chairman: Shall section 8 stand as part of the bill?

Mr. Wildman: I would think for the same reasons as expressed in section 6, we should delete the words "or Canada" from section 8.

The Deputy Chairman: We will need the motion to amend in writing.

Mr. Wildman: moves that section 8 of the bill be amended by deleting the words "or Canada." Is it the pleasure of the committee that the motion carry?

Motion agreed to.

The Deputy Chairman: Shall section 8, as amended, stand as part of the bill?

Section 8, as amended, agreed to.

Section 9:

The Deputy Chairman: Shall section 9 stand as part of the bill?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Because of other arrangements, I move that section 9 of the bill be struck out.

The Deputy Chairman: That is another amendment. As the others were previously, it is out of order. The proper way of dealing with an amendment to leave out a clause is to vote against the clause standing as part of the bill.

Shall section 9 stand as part of the bill?

All those in favour will say "aye."

All those opposed will say "nay."

I declare the motion lost.

Motion negatived.

1800

Sections 10 to 16, inclusive, agreed to.

Section 17:

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. Kerrio moves that section 17 of the bill be amended by adding thereto the following clause:

"(i) prescribing, by content, size or type of container, or any other characteristic, what is or is not considered to be spring or mineral water bottled as a beverage for human consumption for the purpose of the definition of water."

Mr. Harris: Sorry. I want to finish this today, but what does that mean? Does that mean the minister can make the decision on what container size can be sold?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: What I am saying is that someone cannot call a tank car a bottle of water. We have to make certain we can control what containers are used for movement, so that they do not abuse this bill.

Mr. Harris: I understand that. Let's say a fire truck full of water was going to go across the border to assist a sister community in the United States. Under this bill, the minister has no power to permit that, because it "shall" not be exported. My concern is presumably that would be illegal unless the minister ruled that particular container size is permissible, because it is not, we argued, to sell or give away, but we cannot even give that away. I have that concern, that the minister does not get himself into something he does not want.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: No, deciding that we should have jurisdiction over container size is only to make certain that there are no abuses of the bill. I do not think that is an unreasonable thing to put in the bill, because there are always ways of circumventing a bill and abusing the whole process that we are going through here if you do not control what obviously could be used to our disadvantage.

Mr. Harris: Since this will be done in regulation and we will have no control over what the minister does in regulation, does he have some suggestion of the size of container he is going to rule "shall" not cross this border under any circumstances? It is not "may." The minister could help a sister province, as we understand it, but his bill clearly says that, whether we have surplus upon surplus, whatever we have he cannot allow a container of water of a certain size to leave this jurisdiction—presumably he is going to set a regulation.

I suppose that in the example maybe they would be in conflict with the minister's bill and he would say: "Go ahead, put the fire out. I won't bring in the \$500,000 penalty." I want to be clear that by describing the size of a container he does not get himself into a situation that does not allow him to do many things. I am sure even his government would want to be able to assist those nasty Americans.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Chairman, I will not accept that description of our friends to the south, because I live at a border city and I happen to think those are very fine neighbours. We would do many things where we make certain we maintain the sovereignty of our country and are Canadians first; I do not want the Americans, as neighbours, moving into my house to tell me how to function, but there is a great deal of difference between that and the member trying to describe us as in some way being anti-American, that is not the case.

The fact of the matter here is that we are, by describing content, size or type of container, talking about an absolute assurance that there will not be abuses of the bill. It is as simple as that.

The Deputy Chairman: Can I now put the question?

All those in favour of Hon. Mr. Kerrio's amendment will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Motion agreed to.

The Deputy Chairman: All those in favour of section 17, as amended, will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Section 17, as amended, agreed to.

Sections 18 and 19 agreed to.

Section 1:

The Deputy Chairman: We now must deal with the deferred amendment to section 1 by the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman).

Mr. Wildman: In the light of what has happened since I withdraw the amendment.

The Deputy Chairman: Shall section 1, as amended, stand as part of the bill?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Motion agreed to.

Section 1, as amended, agreed to.

Mr. Harris: Again, I do not want to be provocative, but I have one more question before we report the bill. It deals with section 8, which I was kind of tied up on, and I appreciate that it was passed. But as we report I just want to understand that this bill, with section 8 in it, says that if the minister has given approval and if he is of the opinion that the transfer may be—I would assume a sister province, for example, or a company

within Ontario could have been given approval to remove water on whatever basis, perhaps a power company to generate its power or a sister province for diversion for its water supply—it would be only be done if there was a surplus supply, I would presume.

If all that is done and perhaps millions, even billions of dollars have been spent and decisions made on the basis that the community or company can rely on that resource and that transfer has gone on for 10 years, if in the minister's opinion it is now detrimental to Ontario's interest, under section 8 he has no choice, he shall revoke that licence.

I would ask the minister to think of the circumstances under which it might happen. Would any company or province ever enter into an agreement with him which would be contingent on that, built on that reliance; or spend all that money to build that plant if tomorrow or the next day he can say, "Right now that's detrimental to ensuring our water supply"?

Once he has said that he has no choice but to break that contract or break that agreement, and I would suggest be liable to perhaps a substantial suit. Is it clear that this is the power he wants? If he is comfortable with that, fine; I might not be.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I find that a sort of strange contradiction. The member was running at me to talk about transfers to other jurisdictions and charges and things like that; now he wants to get some comfort that if somebody from out of our jurisdiction invests a lot of money in a transfer that somehow we should feel compelled, as the federal government decided when it guaranteed western gas to the United States of America if there is a shortage, I guess that is what he is talking about.

We have certain situations where Ontario Hydro supplies power for particular uses, where the people were told initially— We will go right back now to talking about the kind of submission that would have to be made to give permission for the transfer in the first place. We would say: "Look, this is not a guarantee. If you decide to spend the money, that is your initiative." But as far as we are concerned, the first responsibility is to assure Ontarians a secure supply, and I would think under the circumstances the member described they would be well advised well ahead of time that such could be the case.

I do not think we would do anything that would impact on some exchange from a water basin on that basis. I think we would be very careful about that in the original request.

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Chairman, I have a plane to catch. I would draw your attention to the clock.

Bill, as amended, ordered to be reported.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Conway, the committee of the whole House reported one bill with certain amendments.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Conway: Pursuant to standing order 13, I would like to indicate the business of the House for the coming week. On Monday, February 13, we will continue with the adjourned debate on the second reading of Bill 147, the Independent Health Facilities Act.

On Tuesday, February 14, we will deal with the second readings of Bills 149, 187, 203, 169, 192, 197, 134, 135, 128, and I am also going to include Bill 194 simply because we did not get to it today; all of that, of course, as time permits.

On Wednesday, February 15, we will consider the nonconfidence motion standing in the name of the member for York South (Mr. B. Rae).

On Thursday, February 16, in the morning we will deal with private member's business, ballot items 63 and 64, and in the afternoon we will be dealing with the estimates of the Ministry of Housing.

The House adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*
(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

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| <p>Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
 Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breaugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
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 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)
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 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)
 Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)
 Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC)
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)
 Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)
 Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)
 Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A., Speaker (Perth L)
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)
 Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L)
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)</p> | <p>Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)
 Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)
 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)
 Grandmaitre, Hon. Bernard C., Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)
 Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)
 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)
 Hošek, Hon. Chaviva, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)
 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)
 Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L)
 Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G., Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L)
 Kormos, Peter (Welland-Thorold NDP)
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)
 Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)
 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)
 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)
 Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)
 MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)
 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)
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 Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)
 Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP)
 Matrundola, Gino (Willowdale L)
 McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)
 McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)
 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)
 McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)
 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)
 McLeod, Hon. Lyn, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)
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Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)
 Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)
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 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)

Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier,
 Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Eco-
 nomics and Minister of Financial Institutions
 (Brant-Haldimand L)

Oddie Munro, Hon. Lily, Minister of Culture
 and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)

Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)

O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and
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O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)

Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)

Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government
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 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)

Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and Presi-
 dent of the Council and Minister of Inter-
 governmental Affairs (London Centre L)

Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)

Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship
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Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of
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 and Russell L)

Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)

Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)

Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)

Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)

Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)

Rae, Bob (York South NDP)

Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional
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Ray, Michael C., Deputy Chairman of the
 Committees of the Whole House (Windsor-
 Walkerville L)

Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)

Reycraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)

Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and
 Food (Huron L)

Roberts, Marietta L. D. (Elgin L)

Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)

Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)

Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General
 (St. George-St. David L)

Smith, David W. (Lambton L)

Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General
 (London South L)

Sola, John (Mississauga East L)

Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour
 (York Centre L)

South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)

Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)

Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)

Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)

Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community
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Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)

Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)

Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glen-
 garry PC)

Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of
 Education (Wentworth North L)

Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)

Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio
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Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)

Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy
 (Fort York L)

Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and
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*The alphabetical list of members appears in
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No. 145

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



First Session, 34th Parliament
Monday, February 13, 1989

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday, February 13, 1989

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers.

BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY

Mr. Speaker: I beg to inform the House that I have laid upon the table a copy of an order in council appointing Marietta Roberts, MPP, as commissioner to the Board of Internal Economy in place of Barbara Sullivan, MPP.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

PRESTON BRANCH 126, ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

Mr. Farnan: It gives me great pleasure to read into the record of the Ontario Legislature a tribute to Preston Branch 126 of the Royal Canadian Legion on the occasion of its 60th anniversary. The legion represents the spirit of commitment to one's fellow man in times of great crisis. This was reflected in the unselfish acts of young men and women who put their lives on the line to preserve a way of life. That spirit of generosity lives on.

Since 1929, Preston Branch 126 has been faithful to veterans and their families, to the traditions of the legion through its service bureau, Remembrance Day services and the familiar poppy campaign. Branch 126 has also opened its heart to embrace the entire Cambridge community. It has promoted education by public speaking activities and by bursary and scholarship programs, charities, minor sports, Scout and cadet groups and the Canine Vision Canada guide dog program.

Our community hospital and medical research have all benefited from funds donated by Branch 126. Preston, and now Cambridge, is a richer community because of the presence of Branch 126 in our midst. I am confident that in the years ahead it will continue to remain a beacon of sacrifice and a model of generosity for our community.

On behalf of all the citizens of Cambridge, I say thank you, Branch 126, and may God ever bless your work.

BEEKEEPING INDUSTRY

Mr. Villeneuve: In recent months, rural members of this Legislature have been told of a

number of disturbing developments in Ontario's small but most important beekeeping industry. This industry is important not just for the high-quality honey it produces but for the pollination value provided by the bees.

In fact, the value of produced honey is only some \$7 million, compared to an estimated \$53 million in direct pollination value. In addition, bees provide a great deal of indirect agricultural and silvicultural pollination of significant value.

Until now, Ontario's beekeepers have operated quite well by themselves and have not had to approach the government for any form of help. This has changed. During the mid-1980s, due to poor United States domestic production, western Canadian honey production was increased to take advantage of the vast US market. In 1986, the US began to subsidize honey production, with the effect that Canadian honey exports dropped 57 per cent within 12 months. Since then, surplus western Canadian honey has driven down the price of Ontario's to the point where honey is now sold below the cost of production.

To date, Ontario beekeepers are being refused help from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food for either production or marketing assistance. Until now, beekeepers have never had to approach the province for help. Their numbers are not great, nor are the dollars involved. In fact, the numbers are a small portion of the ministry's in-year savings. I call on the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) to help this small but most important industry in Ontario.

FUTURES PROGRAM

Mr. Chiarelli: Mr. Speaker and members of the House, an anniversary is being celebrated today and I know you would like to join with me in offering congratulations to the celebrants. They are the former high school dropouts who will be taking part in the first anniversary of the part-time, part-time Futures program at Notre Dame High School in Ottawa.

These hard-working, determined young people have been attending school for part of the day and working for the other part. They have been upgrading their education and developing new skills that will help them in their future careers. They have overcome a number of

barriers to reach this point in their lives. I think we should offer them all the encouragement and support we can give them.

I would also like to congratulate the Ministry of Skills Development for initiating this program. Thanks also to the Ottawa separate school board which, along with the Carleton separate school board and the Ottawa and Carleton public school boards, has enthusiastically promoted this program. They have helped employment-disadvantaged youth help themselves through the part-time, part-time program.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Miss Martel: Today the standing committee on resources development begins its hearings on Bill 162, An Act to amend the Workers' Compensation Act. Members of this House will clearly recall the difficulty we in the New Democratic Party had in convincing the government to hold public hearings on this bill. The response from those wishing to participate has been overwhelming, and clearly the committee will have no problem obtaining comments on the proposed legislation.

Our party's opposition to Bill 162 has been made very clear. The provisions on reinstatement immediately exclude 25 per cent of the workforce in Ontario, and the obligations on employers are weak and minimal. Far worse is the power given to the Workers' Compensation Board to exclude any class of employers and workers in the future.

Second, in spite of recommendations from Majesky-Minna, the WCB will not be obliged to provide rehabilitation services. This should be a statutory right, as it has been shown the WCB is far less likely to provide rehab if it does not have to. The Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara) should be condemned for his public statement that workers would abuse this. It is obvious who he represents.

Third, the dual award system, through pensions, will result in less benefits for injured workers. There is absolutely no guarantee that injured workers will receive compensation for their loss in earnings. This is based on the discretion of the board, and we all know how grossly unfair that is.

Finally, the WCB will be left to make major decisions on major issues. The government must be willing to listen to what the people say on Bill 162, unlike its performance on Bill 113 and Bill 114.

COURT SYSTEM

Mr. McCague: Frustration is escalating with in the provincial courts system in Simcoe county.

Plagued with severe backlogs and delays, the pressures of this overburdened justice system are being felt on the judges' bench and right out into the community. A critical situation has evolved in Barrie. Costs are soaring, frustration is mounting and there is no solution in sight.

The following is just one example of how delay after delay stops the wheels of justice. In October 1987, a man was charged with theft under \$1,000. His first court appearance was the following month, when his case was put over until December 1987 so that he could speak to a lawyer. With time lingering on, absent witnesses and attorneys, the accused made his fifth appearance on February 1, 1989. Once again, his trial was put over until an unknown future date.

Fourteen months have passed since the man was charged, and who knows how much longer the case will be tied up in the courts. Not only has valuable court time been consumed, but it has already cost the taxpayers nearly \$600 in overtime for the police officer who originally laid the charge.

This is a tragic situation, but with the Alliston courthouse sitting empty, I say it is criminal. The Alliston court facility was recently renovated to meet the standards of the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) and it still remains closed. The people of Alliston and area, and indeed all of Simcoe county, deserve the attention of the Attorney General.

1340

ROAD SAFETY

Mr. Tatham: I have a letter from J. G. Silverthorn, rural route 3, Princeton, Ontario, one of my constituents, with some recommendations for highway safety. Here is a quotation from the letter:

"If some of these proposed measures had been in effect one year ago, I would not have had to suffer a personal tragedy that took the life of my son and I feel that if even a few were implemented, then others could avoid having a deep personal tragedy such as mine in their future.

"1. Psychological profile for all A-class licences.

"2. Increased policing automatically for 'hot spots.'

"3. Mandatory blood and/or urine samples from all drivers involved in personal injury or fatal accidents.

"4. Registered and numbered log books for all commercial drivers, American or Canadian, including out-of-province.

"5. Policy on road construction.

"I honestly believe that if these conditions or a variance thereof had been in place one year ago, my son would still be alive. Also very probably a St. Catharines' OPP officer and his vehicular companion would still be with us.

"Yours truly, J. G. Silverthorn."

PREPAID SERVICES

Mr. Farnan: Slenderizer Fitness Centre of 3145 Dufferin Street is the latest in a string of health and fitness clubs to fold in recent years. Last year 12 such clubs closed in Ontario.

Just last fall, Holiday Fitness announced it would not be opening its clubs in Don Mills and Scarborough Town Centre, forcing an estimated 3,000 members to transfer to other clubs or wait to get their money back. Getting their money back, as countless consumers are currently experiencing, is like trying to get blood from a turnip.

We do not want regulation for the sake of regulation, but it is now abundantly clear that the track record of fly-by-night, quick-buck artists within the health and fitness industry demands stringent controls in order to protect the consumer. Unfortunately, the minister is asleep at the switch. As ministry officials carry out their investigations, consumers continue to be ripped off. As I pointed out to the minister, the Prepaid Services Act is not the answer. It provides insufficient protection for the consumer and glaring loopholes for those who would engage in legalized fraud.

The minister must act immediately to broaden the legislation to protect members of health and fitness clubs already in existence and to establish an insurance fund similar to that existing in the travel industry. The minister has a responsibility to provide protection for the consumers of Ontario. He is clearly not living up to that responsibility.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY

COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRES

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: My ministry is creating a strong network of community programs to promote improved access to health services, access that will meet the health care needs of people and at the same time encourage health promotion and disease prevention.

It is my pleasure to announce to the House today that my ministry has approved funding for two additional community health centres.

The nonprofit Citizens Committee on Community Health of Barrie will receive just over

\$128,000 to establish a new community health centre, the first in the Barrie area. The Barrie CHC will provide general medical care, rehabilitation and health promotion and information services. Once it is fully operational, in about three years, its annual operating budget is expected to be \$721,000.

In addition, South Oshawa Community Development Project, a nonprofit agency directed by a local board, will receive \$144,000 in startup funding to establish a community health centre for residents of south Oshawa. The centre will specialize in services for low-income and single-parent families. Once this centre's capacity increases, it will receive an annual operating budget of \$564,800.

Both agencies are currently looking for appropriate sites. I expect they will be receiving their first patients this summer.

Community health centres, or CHCs, have proved to be particularly effective in reaching out to different community groups. The centres are run by nonprofit incorporated boards and their staff.

Community health centres are organized to provide specialized services to specific population groups who need better access to health care, such as the poor, the elderly and the immigrant community.

More recently, community health centres have been announced to meet the needs of French-speaking Ontarians, women, the elderly, teenagers and various ethnic and multicultural groups. In total, we now have 15 community health centres in operation and a further nine approved for startup.

Community health centres tailor programs and services to the specific needs of their target community. General medical care is combined with a variety of services that include health promotion, outreach and advocacy, social work and counselling.

As the Premier (Mr. Peterson) has said, our government is committed to doubling the number of people served by health service organizations and community health centres in Ontario by 1991. My ministry is on its way towards achieving that goal. These two new centres reflect our vision to provide Ontarians with effective, quality care as close to home as possible.

RESPONSES

COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRES

Mr. Breagh: It is a rare occurrence, but I want to say thank you to a minister who has finally done the right thing.

Mr. Reville: Is there something wrong with you, Mike?

Mr. Breagh: I am not sick, I am just grateful, that is all.

Like most local members, I have had my little finger in this pie too. Mostly, the member directs the local community groups to the appropriate ministry, tries to figure out for them how to work their way through the bureaucratic maze that each ministry sets up, tries to make sure that the ministry does not forget about them, that the application does not get lost and that they fulfil all the little criteria that some bureaucrat thought up.

I am pleased to say, as I know the minister herself knows, that in south Oshawa they are a pig-headed group of folks. When they have a good idea in their heads, it takes a whole lot of bureaucrats to drive it out of them. They succeeded, in this instance, in taking what we thought was a much-needed type of facility, in thinking about how it should be put together and how the proposals should be done. We think we have a workable, practical means of providing good community health care to a part of our city that is sadly lacking in that right now.

It is one of those rare occasions in politics when you actually get to see something come true that has taken a long time to put together. I know that the nonprofit board that has directed this proposal so far will be happy today to see that Queen's Park has recognized its hard work. We hope that in a short period of time a good idea will become reality for the residents of south Oshawa.

We thank the minister for doing what a minister is supposed to do. It is such a rare sight around here that we should stand it out as a good day for Oshawa.

Mr. Reville: Now for the bad news. If we could get the crash cart to stand by for the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek), she is going to hear me thank the Ministry of Health for these initiatives in Barrie and in Oshawa. Now she is going to hear me castigate the Ministry of Health for continuing to have such a small ambition as to double the number of community health centres by 1991. As I have said before in the House, that will bring the number of people served by CHCs in the entire province of Ontario up to four per cent. It is not enough.

We also know that the ministry continues to make the mistake of feeling that community health centres are organized to provide specialized services to specific population groups. This is a gross error. CHCs can provide health services to everyone. It is not necessary to target

a particular group before the ministry can get around to funding a community health centre.

We note, for instance, that CHCs have been announced to serve the needs of French-speaking Ontarians, and while we welcome those services to French-speaking Ontarians here in Toronto, we are aware that right across the north there continues to be a scarcity of services for French-speaking Ontarians.

Mr. Speaker, if you can imagine trying to receive counselling in a language that is not your own, you can see the futility that this government continues to pursue with respect to the delivery of health services to people in the province.

1350

What I think must become clearer and clearer to this government—I am very sorry to see the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) walking away, but perhaps she could come back and read the Hansard tomorrow—is that until we shift significant resources into the community, the Ministry of Health is going to continue to face crises in the institutional care system that it cannot solve by the mere pouring in of money.

We have to create a system in this province where care can be delivered at the community level to all people, not just to specific groups, and where the reliance we have come to have on the institutional system, on the Ministry of Sickness, has to change so that we create health in the community, where health must always begin.

Mr. Eves: It is my pleasure to rise in the House this afternoon and to again congratulate the minister with respect to this community initiative.

An hon. member: Again?

Mr. Eves: We have already had two congratulatory messages no more than 30 seconds ago.

I think this is a step in the right direction. However, I would like to echo the comments made by the member for Riverdale (Mr. Reville). I do not always associate myself with the comments of my colleague—

Mr. Reville: You could do worse.

Mr. Eves: Yes, I could do worse; especially today I could do worse.

I repeat the caution the member for Riverdale has made, in that by the year 1991 we now are going to be servicing just some four per cent of the population of Ontario with respect to community health centres. I think much more could be done in a very real and aggressive way by the Ministry of Health with respect to its proportion of its total budget.

With respect to Barrie, I hope this does not mean the minister is not going to be proceeding with respect to the Barrie hospital in the near future, as indeed she has not to date; and speaking of community health, what about the community of North Bay and its hospital as well?

ORAL QUESTIONS

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Mr. B. Rae: I was expecting the Minister of Financial Institutions to be announcing the 17 per cent increase in rates to allow the—

Interjections.

Mr. B. Rae: I have read it. I have read the whole thing and that is where the figure comes from. The Ontario Automobile Insurance Board has stated that it will in fact be allowing increases as high as 17 per cent plus in order to allow the insurance companies to make 12.5 per cent return on equity on their investment.

The question I have for the minister is, does he agree with the statement by the insurance board that it is bound, in its view, to quote its phrase, that the rates or range of rates must give insurers "an opportunity to earn" the return on equity selected by the board? Is it the view of the minister that this is what the act does, that it is an act to ensure profits, to ensure rates of profitability and not an act to protect the interests of consumers?

Hon. Mr. Elston: The honourable gentleman is wrong. The gentleman knows full well that the board's mandate is to ensure that the rates that are set are reasonable and yet not inappropriate. He knows they are not required to guarantee return for any company. What they are designed to do is give the consumers a reasonably priced product and the companies, as before, are going to have to manage in a way that is worth while from their point of view. They are going to have to be very keen in the competitive marketplace, as is allowed under the setting of rates within the ranges that have been established.

The people of the province know that the benchmark rate for auto insurance increases is 7.6 per cent.

Mr. B. Rae: The benchmark rate is 7.6 per cent, but the insurance companies are allowed to charge an additional nine per cent without even going to the board, without so much as a by-your-leave or anything else in order to shaft consumers. That is over a nine-month period until the end of 1989.

My supplementary question to the minister is this: He says the mandate of the board is to

provide rates that are just and reasonable, and not excessive or inadequate. I wonder what he says to the young person from Scarborough with two years' driving experience who is 30 years old and who is going to face increases of some 82 per cent, thanks to the increases that have been imposed by the insurance board. Can the minister explain how that kind of increase, 82 per cent for somebody with a two-year clear driving record, is just and reasonable in any way, shape or form?

Hon. Mr. Elston: The honourable gentleman has a lot of merit to a number of his attributes, but he is not being very reasonable in reading what is occurring with respect to this setting of rates.

This honourable gentleman sat in this forum when we were talking about eliminating age, sex, marital status and handicapped discrimination from setting rates. He, like all of us here, is in favour of eliminating those discriminations. Some of those problems in setting up a new way of dealing with auto insurance rates are in developing a new plan dealing with making adjustments, adjusting the marketplace to take into consideration that we do not wish to have that discrimination.

That gentleman will want to tell the people of Ontario that he participated in making sure we were fairly distributing the risk right through the population, without looking at age, sex, marital status or handicap as a means of discriminating in rates. That gentleman will want to indicate that is part of the result of putting in a new classification plan. That gentleman will also want to tell the people of Timmins that the same person who is 30 years old in Timmins will be getting less of an increase. He will want to say that the younger person—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Thank you.

Mr. B. Rae: The minister is very generously trying to share his plan with our party. I want to return the gift to him and tell him that we have no intention of sharing this lousy, stinking plan. It is theirs. It is a Liberal plan. They brought it in when they said they were going to lower rates, and they did not.

The minister is right about the man in Timmins he is referring to. He is not going to get an 82 per cent increase. The increase in Timmins is going to be 50 per cent. I will let the minister go to Timmins and tell the drivers in Timmins that their increase is going to be 50 per cent at a time when they said they were going to lower the rates.

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. B. Rae: This plan is for a 17 per cent increase without so much as a by-your-leave and

an 82 per cent increase for some drivers because the government replaced the discrimination against younger drivers with a discrimination against lack of experience. That was their plan and their decision, to do that.

I wonder if the minister can explain how any of these increases, any of these ripoffs that will result in huge profit increases for the insurance industry, in any way conform to the promise his leader made in September 1987 that he would lower insurance rates if he was re-elected on September 10.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The honourable gentleman fails, as he often does in this forum, to give the entire story to the people of the province. How am I going to tell people about the decreases in insurance rates, about the 17-year-old driver in Scarborough who sees a decrease of about 50 per cent in his rates, about the 17-year-old driver in Timmins who sees a decrease of upwards of 58 per cent in his or her rates?

Can the member tell me those are not decreases? We have been saying right along that when we brought in the new classification plan, in fact there were going to be adjustments as a result of eliminating the discrimination, the discrimination elimination for which all of us here in this House stood so well to be counted.

We are in favour of that, but there are adjustments and there is no question that there will be situations in which increases will occur. That member over there cannot tell the people of the province that there are not decreases, as he would suggest. He cannot let on that in fact there is a guarantee to anybody to earn profit, he cannot indicate that the people in the insurance business will continue to write insurance coverage with a guarantee of return, because that is not what this is about.

This board, with its public mandate, has set a reasonable benchmark rate, and it is a reasonable rate, 7.6 per cent over the last rates.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. New question.

1400

Mr. Chiarelli: Show and tell, Bob?

Interjections.

Mr. B. Rae: I borrowed this chart from the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan).

The minister would have us believe rates are going down overall. Rates are not going down overall. Rates are going up steadily, as they have gone up ever since the Premier (Mr. Peterson) made his promise in 1987. He said rates would go down. They have not gone down; they have gone up.

I want to ask the minister this simple, very direct question: I wonder if the minister can tell us why it is that his government has condoned and indeed accepted a situation where the insurance board would say its entire rate structure and the rates being proposed by the insurance board are designed to allow the insurance companies to increase their rate of return for car insurance from around four per cent to around 12.5 per cent. Can the minister tell us how such a plan could possibly lower insurance rates, which is why his government was elected in September?

Hon. Mr. Elston: The honourable gentleman likes to confuse the public by indicating there is some guarantee of return. There is no such guarantee of return. We require the private sector, in this case the insurance companies, to be competitive and to make their own competitive savings within the rates they set.

In the current rate structure, there is the possibility that people can set a rate minus 20 per cent from the benchmark, can go way below the benchmark if they choose to do so, and in fact can get as low as minus 20 without coming to the board for any sort of approval.

The socialists, who find it so difficult to say that word, would like to take us into another area of endeavour. We like the competitive marketplace. We like the opportunities that are here in terms of competition. We like the opportunities here because the benchmark rate, which is set for the purposes of the consumers of this province, is set at a very reasonable rate.

I think what the honourable gentleman would like to tell the people of the province is that he was wrong about the board in his criticism of it, that he was wrong when he said it could not come to a fair and reasonable rate, that he was wrong when he said the hearings would not amount to anything. In fact, they were—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. B. Rae: Just so the minister knows what the board has said in its "Questions and Answers"—I do not think he does. He is talking about how the insurance companies can reduce their rates by as much as 20 per cent overall. They could have done that up to now. Nothing has stopped the insurance companies over the last year from dropping their rates by 40 per cent, 60 per cent, 100 per cent in order to gain some market share and do things right. We are still in Kansas. The minister has to come down to earth on this one.

To quote from the board: "The board's average benchmark rate increase of approximately 7.6

per cent relates to the expected annual increase in loss costs. The nine per cent above the approximate 7.6 benchmark is the increase factor that relates to the opportunity to earn a 12.5 per cent return on equity."

That is where the additional figure comes from. The additional figure the average driver is going to be stuck with in this province comes directly from a government that has committed itself to fuelling the profits of the insurance industry.

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. B. Rae: I wonder if the minister can explain why such an increase has been imposed and allowed by the insurance board when the return—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Thank you. The question has been asked.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I think the honourable gentleman said "on all business," and of course that is where he likes to muddy the waters. We are talking about a board that has been charged to understand and look at all the components that go into setting the rates with respect to auto insurance, and that is what this board has done.

They have done it in a very professional, very reasonable, very rational and very thorough way so that the people of this province will understand all the components that go into setting rates. They also know very well and full well, as the people in the street know, that competition in the marketplace is preserved by the setting of the rates in the manner in which they have been set. We will be watching to see the result of that, but right now we know that the benchmark rate is 7.6 per cent, and that is the important figure for the people of the province.

Mr. B. Rae: The rate is 17 per cent. That is the rate they are allowed to charge without going to the board, without going, through you Mr. Speaker, without going to the Premier who in an argument said he was going to lower rates; 17 per cent is the additional amount they are allowed to charge without any kind of additional approval by the board or anything else. You can get a 17 per cent rate increase notice in your mail and there is nothing you or anybody else can do about it. That is the rate now permitted by the law in Ontario, thanks to this government's laws. The minister might try to deny it, but he cannot deny it.

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. B. Rae: Is the minister standing in his place today and denying that as of March of this year insurance companies will in fact, under the

laws of the province passed by the Liberal Party, Liberal laws, be legally entitled, allowed, to send a 17 per cent increase notice, a Liberal 17 per cent increase notice to each and driver in this province if that is what the insurance companies so choose?

Hon. Mr. Elston: The honourable gentleman knows the benchmark is 7.6 per cent. There can be an increase of nine per cent above that, which is 16 per cent. The member is right, except he said 17 per cent. He likes to round up all the time. The thing he also forgets is there can be a decrease from that 7.6 per cent of some 20 per cent as well.

That gentleman does not tell the whole story. He has always had a problem doing that and he refuses again to deal with that problem of his. The whole story, and I will be quite clear for the people of Ontario, is there is a variation from the 7.6 per cent benchmark rate as established by the board, as it is required to do in the public interest, to go up nine per cent, but there can also be a decrease of 20 per cent.

There is very large leeway for a whole lot of competition in the marketplace. We know the socialist New Democratic Party does not like competition in the marketplace.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: They like 18 per cent increases in Manitoba.

Hon. Mr. Elston: They like 18 per cent increases in Manitoba. They like the things that has brought.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. There are other members who would like to ask questions.

Mr. Harris: Due to the transportation infrastructure problems in Toronto being at least 17 per cent worse than they were three years ago, the member for Leeds-Grenville (Mr. Runciman) was delayed. In view of that, I want to proceed with a housing question.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Mr. Harris: The minister said in January that there were affordable homes in Toronto. I will admit I had my doubts when she made that statement, but she was absolutely correct: there were about 20 in all of Metropolitan Toronto that fitted her definition. One of these was purchased before Christmas for \$120,000. Today, that same house is on the market for \$189,000. Because of the publicity that house received, a small, one-bedroom bungalow has gone up in price 57 per cent in less than three months.

Does the minister today really believe there are affordable homes for sale in Metropolitan Toronto?

1410

Hon. Ms. Hošek: This story is another indicator of something we have been saying for a long, long time, and that is that the biggest task we face is making sure there are more homes, more houses, more condominiums, more town houses, more housing of various forms that people in this province can afford to buy and that there be a greater supply of them than there is today.

That is the reason we are doing so many of the things we are doing. That is the reason we are using government lands to make sure there is more housing built which people can afford. That is the reason we issued our land use statement in which we told municipalities that we expect them, in the way in which they use land, in the way in which they allow creativity on the part of the builders in a more effective and creative use of land, to allow the supply of housing that is more moderately priced to be built, to be developed in this province, and to be sold to people who can afford it.

That is the reason we have made so many of the decisions we have made, because we know that in a province in which 100,000 people are coming from out of the province and out of the country every year, in a metropolitan area in which the pressure of growth is very high, we must do everything we can to make sure the supply of housing that people can afford to buy is increased, and that is what we are doing.

Mr. Harris: The minister keeps indicating, for some reason or other, that she is proud of the work she is doing to improve the housing situation. I would ask her to look at the record. When her party came to power in 1985, the average new home in Toronto was \$108,000. After three years of Liberal government, a new home in Toronto now costs more than \$250,000. That was before Christmas; we know that some homes since then have gone up some 40 per cent to 50 per cent.

I guess I would want to know from the minister, is this the record she is so proud of? This is the legacy of her party's three years in office, and I would ask her in a very serious way, from what she is telling us, has she given up on ever being able to bring back the dream of home ownership for the average Ontarian?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I and members of this government and many people in this province, and I assume the member opposite as well, are

concerned that people have the housing choices that we want them to have, and that people of moderate income be able to buy homes which they can afford, whether those homes be free-standing or attached or town homes or condominiums.

It is for that reason we have indicated that we expect municipalities to work with us and with the private sector, the private builders, to make it possible for the private-sector builders to build the housing which people of modest income can afford to buy. I know from my conversations with people in the industry that those homes can indeed be built, if the municipalities, together with us, are willing to use land in more creative and innovative ways. I am very pleased about the indication that we have made about this and about our invitation to municipalities to work with us.

Let me point out to the member that the previous Housing critic of his party, who sits right behind him, thought our efforts in this area were premature, perhaps because the area he represents has not been particularly interested in this.

The other thing I am proud of is that this government has doubled its spending on social housing over the spending of the previous government. Our commitment in this area is clear in the actions we have undertaken, in the heat we are prepared to take and in the clear signal we have given to the municipalities of this province that we expect them to be part of the solution, to allow the building of the homes that people in this province can afford. If the member opposite is as concerned as I know he is, I expect him—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. It seems like a fairly comprehensive response. Final supplementary.

Mr. Harris: Clearly nothing that the minister has done has had any effect on solving the housing crisis, but instead there are a number of things she has done that have directly and substantially contributed to the problem. She brought in new lot levies on new home construction. Since she took office in 1985, lot levies in Ontario's major centres have increased by some 94 per cent.

Now we hear of plans to add another \$5,000 at least to every new home built in Ontario. We know and we have seen the effect that driving up the price of new homes has on all of the existing housing stock, be they any one of the 50 choices the minister seems to want to think or mention are there.

Will the minister at least agree to undo some of the damage that clearly she, her predecessors, her party or her government have done in the last three years by backing off the proposal to add even more new lot levies and take one small step towards resolving the affordable housing crisis that we have in this province today?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The member opposite is strangely misinformed. At the instigation of some municipalities and regions, there have been lot levies in place in this province for a long time. One of the things that we have done as a government is to work together with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the community of builders to rationalize that system and to make sure that it covers legitimate costs of infrastructure in various development communities.

I consider that to be a reasonably good thing to have done, and I am sure the member opposite does as well. But let me point out to him that the housing needs of the people in this province extend to the people of moderate income, for whom we have done a variety of things to address their needs, and also to people who have had very severe housing problems in this province. All of us know about them.

I, as well as the member, have seen some of the situations in which people who have no homes at all have to live. I consider that what this government has done to address the needs of people who have no permanent housing to be one of the most important things this government has ever done. In increasing the supply of social housing, in doubling our financial commitment to social housing since the member's party was in power and in making the commitment to build more permanent housing for people at the lowest end of the income scale who have the most difficulty, I think we have done some very good things. I do not pretend that solves all the problems that are left to solve.

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Mr. Runciman: I have a question for the Minister of Financial Institutions related to the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board meeting this morning and early this afternoon.

In respect of the Mercer study that was tabled with the board some months ago and indicated a 35 per cent to 40 per cent base rate increase, I am wondering if the minister will indicate to the House whether indeed that report tabled by Mercer was, as suggested at the time, a costly setup so that consumers in this province would not be irate at a 17 per cent increase, which is

what, in effect, we have had announced today as a base. That is, in reality, what is going to occur, so the consumers will breathe a sigh of relief at that kind of an increase.

We had it clearly indicated some months ago about the insurance company ties that Mercer has. I would like to hear the minister's comments in respect to the credibility of the Mercer company, how much we paid for that report and whether we are going to ask for the money back.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The honourable gentleman was described not too long ago in the newspaper as not wishing to display too much of his right-wing underpinnings, I guess. This sort of indicates just how far he has strayed away from what got him here.

He is denying that there will be competition within the range. In fact, he talks about a 17 per cent increase, which cannot be further from the truth. The member should understand that there is competition in the marketplace and, in fact, the benchmark is at 7.6 per cent. I have to keep repeating that, because some of these other members refuse to give the full story to the people of the province. It is a 7.6 per cent increase, up nine per cent, down 20 per cent. One has to know the full range.

I can tell the honourable gentleman that the Mercer report was based on certain data which, by the report and the nature of the report's comments, could not all be accepted. If the member has been able to read part of the report, which I am sure he has, he will have seen that there are explanations as to which of the criteria have been accepted from the Mercer report and which assumptions have been rejected for valid reasons as established by the board and the province. He knows that, in fact, the work done by Mercer has been invaluable in allowing the board to get on with holding the hearing, assessing the nature of the rates to be set and in fact—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Supplementary.

1420

Mr. Runciman: The reality is that there is no enforcement mechanism. All insurance companies are able to go up to the approximately 17 per cent base rate increase. That is the reality, and I am sure the minister will not attempt to deny that.

When we talk about 17 per cent, I wonder if we might refer to the tabling of this document and take a look at one specific area. Let's take a look at young female drivers in this province and look at the specific example of a 30-year-old female driver, two years licensed, who has taken an

adult driver training course and now could be facing an increase of 82 per cent.

We are talking about a period over nine months. That is another point we should emphasize here. We are not talking about a full year. We are talking about nine months that that particular driver or drivers in that category could face increases up to 82 per cent.

I would like to know, and I am sure all of the female drivers who are going to fall into this kind of a category would like to know, where the specific plan of the Premier (Mr. Peterson) to reduce auto insurance rates comes into effect in terms of their particular policy. How does it affect them?

Hon. Mr. Elston: In the various examples from both the NDP leader and the member for Leeds-Grenville (Mr. Runciman), who seem to be snuggling very closely together on this issue, we have seen that they are picking out the example of the 30-year-old driver. I can tell them that in fact there are going to be adjustments as a result of the removal of discrimination on the basis of age, sex, marital status and handicap, just as this House and all the members of the House had determined there ought to be.

When we set up the new classification plan, it was because we as a group of legislators required the end to the discrimination which had resulted in certain savings to certain people. This particular new classification plan, and the way it is structured, will have some increases. But this gentleman, as he snuggles closer to the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. B. Rae), is likewise having problems giving the full story to the people of the province.

As much as there can be a nine per cent increase above 7.6 per cent, there can be a 20 per cent decrease from that. In fact, the reduction in auto premiums can be seen best by the 17-year-old driver in Timmins who is going to have a decrease of over 50 per cent in the rates that he will pay.

Mr. Runciman: If anyone knows about snuggling with the NDP, it is that member and his colleagues on the other side of the House.

I want to talk about one other area. The minister suggests that we are not telling the facts. If you take a look at this report, there is a very real, very clear effort here to hide the facts in respect of senior drivers in this province.

If the minister looks at the report, section 4.37 says, "A significant proportion of comments on affordability came from senior citizens." We cannot find a description of how this is going to impact on anybody over 50. We have an

indication here of a 50-year-old driver who could be facing very significant increases, one in the area of 42 per cent. We have a very real concern about the impact that this increase is going to have on seniors right across this province.

There is a real effort here to hide those facts from the public and hide those facts from seniors in this province.

Mr. Speaker: Do you have a question?

Mr. Runciman: When is the auto board going to reveal what this significant impact is going to be on senior drivers across this province? Let's have the facts.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The left-leaning member for Leeds-Grenville, as he is counting the votes from each of his Conservative Party colleagues around the province, will want to indicate that within 30 days of making the announcement of this benchmark rate increase, there will be auto insurance companies which will be letting everyone know exactly what this means for their rates. All individual persons will find out, as they go through the system, where they fall into the new classification plans and, hence, what their new rates will be.

I have indicated quite clearly that there will be upwards of a nine per cent possible increase over 7.6 per cent, but there also can be minus 20. The honourable gentleman will also want to know that 7.6 per cent is the benchmark figure. The people of the province will want to know that. The gentleman will want to let the people know, in some of those examples he has not read, that the people in Timmins who were used as examples, almost—I was going to say without exception—but not quite without exception, will see decreases in the amounts of insurance that they will pay.

There are decreases and there are increases as we go through an adjustment period. I will not say anything different than that. But I can tell the honourable member that there are significant savings on the basis of the end of the discrimination which this House felt was necessary to be fair to all drivers of the province. We are doing that and this is a fair increase: 7.6 per cent.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. The first four questions have taken 33 and some minutes.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: I think the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) is waiting patiently to ask his question.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Mr. Breaugh: I have a question for the Minister of Housing concerning that affordable

house on Lauder Avenue that was featured in the Toronto Star over the weekend.

Does the minister think it is appropriate in the middle of a housing crisis to sit by and watch the price of this home three blocks from her constituency office rise some \$69,000 in 82 days? Is that a reasonable thing for her to do?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The member opposite knows very well that we have a lot of work to do in the Ministry of Housing to make a difference for housing in this province, and I admit that. That is the reason we have introduced some of the policy changes which we have introduced. The most important one is the one that I think will make a lot of difference in making sure that the supply of housing people can afford to buy all over the province is increased.

That, I think, is a very important policy. In fact, I know the member opposite basically agrees with it, because he knows that the real answer to making sure people have housing choices in this province is increasing their choices, increasing their options, increasing the number of homes of a reasonable price that are available all over the province.

We want to do that through building new housing. We want to do that through allowing people to use land more creatively through in-fill and through intensification.

We have told all the municipalities and regions in the province that we expect them to indicate how they will meet the goals that we as a province have set. The member opposite, I believe, agrees with those goals as well.

It seems to me that what we need to do is make sure that the rules of development and intensification all over the province are open enough to allow the province—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Perhaps we could just tighten up some of the questions and some of the responses so that maybe more members would have the opportunity.

Mr. Breagh: I would like to tighten up something, I will tell you that.

In this instance, for example, the speculator was a real estate agent who bought the house from an individual 82 days earlier. Does the minister think it is reasonable that a real estate agent, in the middle of a housing crisis, should carry on this kind of speculation right under her nose and she does nothing about it? Is that a reasonable thing for her to do?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: Let me point out to the member opposite that at this point that house has not sold at that price. Anyone is free to put any

price he wants on a house that is on the market. We have to see what price it will sell at.

The important thing for us to do in this province is to make sure that we are not talking about one house. We are not talking about individual houses. We are talking about making sure that the supply of houses for people of moderate income in this province is increased. It is only when there is a significant supply of houses that people can afford to buy that we are not going to hear stories of this sort.

The other thing that the member opposite knows very well is that we are dealing with a situation in which literally hundreds of thousands of people in this province are looking for new homes because of new family formation and also because of all the people who have come to the province from all over the country and from all over the world.

That is what happens in a situation of shortage. It is our job to make sure that the possibility for supply is increased so that the shortage of houses of modest price will no longer be there.

1430

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Mr. Runciman: I have a question for the Minister of Financial Institutions, that well-known right-winger. This government has set up an auto insurance regulatory board, over the objections of our party, and a mechanism to cap increases in insurance rates quite similar to what it has in place in the housing market through rent control.

The cap it has in place in rent review is 4.6 per cent. That is a cap where it says, through the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek) and through the Rent Review Hearings Board, that it has some say.

Would the minister agree that the cap in the auto insurance area as of today is approximately 17 per cent before the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board can do anything? If he does not agree, how can the board deal with a company, for example, that chooses to increase its rates 16.2 per cent?

Hon. Mr. Elston: The interesting thing about the marketplace, as the left-leaning member from Leeds-Grenville would want to know, is that competition has a role to play in the setting of rates. At this point, 7.6 per cent, as the people of the province will want to know, is the benchmark. Companies can go up nine per cent. What the individual would also want the people of the province to know is that it could be 20 per cent

below that and even more below that because of competition in the marketplace.

I would like that gentleman to understand that in fact competition has a role to play in this marketplace. It has been a marketplace before where competition has had a role to play. He would want to acknowledge that.

In this situation, he knows that the benchmark is 7.6 per cent. In fact, there can be upwards of nine per cent or a decrease of some 20 per cent in the range of rates that could be charged by the companies in the province. Competition is at play.

Mr. Runciman: That is a bit of a joke. We have to take a look at the only comparable regulatory agency in this province, and that is the rent review board. If we use the analogy with respect to some of the things the minister has been saying here today, competition is going to result in decreases or increases in the range that has been applied by the board.

I want to ask him specifically, and using that analogy, how that has impacted on rent review in this province. We have a 4.6 per cent cap. I would like to know through the minister, and I am sure the consumers across this province would like to know, how many landlords in this province have been receiving 4.6 per cent and how many have been considerably above that cap? I know we have heard of some horror stories in this province in terms of very significant increases in rental rates. Let's hear what is going to happen—

Mr. Speaker: Order. It is not necessary to explain the reason for the question.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The honourable gentleman will know that this is not like rent review. This is a review of auto rates. He has got himself a little confused here. After a busy weekend of hand-shaking all of those people who showed up at his convention, he has forgotten what the question should be.

The question should be: What was the benchmark rate set by the board? The benchmark rate set by the board is 7.6 per cent. There is a range to be charged. He will also want to know that the result of the announcement made today by the board is a heightened activity on behalf of the consumers of the province so they know what the rates are for the companies in the province.

This board has indicated quite clearly that it will provide not only the information which has been put forward in the report released today but will also be providing for the consumers a list of the rates to be charged by the various companies

so the consumers can well understand what the market offers to them.

This gentleman, had he been looking at the entire report, would have told the people that the benchmark for rate increases in Ontario is 7.6 per cent. The consumers will be armed with the information that will make them wise and good shoppers in the marketplace in Ontario. If he had been aspiring to show his right-wing sort of credentials he would—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

MEDIA REPORT

Mr. Leone: My question is to the Minister of Citizenship, responsible for racial relations and human rights. Last week a columnist for one of the Toronto daily newspapers wrote an article which openly defies our Constitution and the international covenants on human rights to which Canada is a signatory. The suggestion was made that no Canadian citizen born outside Canada should participate in the democratic process and be able to vote and be elected.

The tone of the article was offensive not only to Canadians of Italian background but to every member of the ethnocultural community. The reaction of the Italian community was immediate—one of outrage. Can the minister tell the Legislature what his position and that of the government is with respect to such articles and their dangerous and inflammatory implications?

Hon. Mr. Phillips: I appreciate the question. Those of us who have read the article would agree that the thoughts contained in that article are appalling and contrary to some fundamental beliefs that I think all of us in this House share. Perhaps the best way to speak out against it is to let the House know my thoughts on some of the thoughts contained in that article.

First, it suggests that a student who was born outside of Canada is somehow less a Canadian than one born here. Of course, none of us in this House would accept that. None of us believes that, and the facts find us elsewhere.

The second thing that is found in the article is that somehow people who come to Canada are coming here solely to advance their own wellbeing. I hope all of us recognize that people are coming to Canada for that reason but also, what is important, because we, as a country, have invited them. Each year, this country invites people to come here. That is why they are coming.

Last, the article suggests that one should not be allowed to run for public office unless one were born in Canada. Of course, that is fundamentally

contrary to all that we believe in. We believe very much in people who come here participating fully, actively and totally in our society. As a matter of fact, if one looks at the founder of this country, John A. Macdonald, he would not have been allowed to be the founder of this country.

Mr. Leone: I thank the minister. Can he tell us how we can prevent these people who hide behind the principles of free speech and opinion from poisoning the fabric of our society and destroying the basic principles of our institutions?

Hon. Mr. Phillips: I have two thoughts on that. The first thing that all of us need to do is to reinforce our commitment to our policy here in this province. We say that we as a province celebrate our diversity. We think it is a source of strength and enrichment that we have this diversity, and we are committed as a government to ensuring that in our programs and policies we reflect that diversity. Day in and day out as a government, we must reflect that.

More important, perhaps it is incumbent on all of us to once again recommit ourselves to ensuring that in this province every single individual truly is equal before the law and in all our institutions. We cannot ban freedom of speech, but we can, in our actions and the things we do as legislators and as individuals, say to every individual in this province, "You are welcome here, you are free and you are encouraged to participate fully and equally."

It will be in our actions—and not things we do to try and prohibit freedom of speech but rather the things we do as legislators and individuals—that we will make that statement.

VISITOR

Mr. Speaker: Just before I recognize the next questioner, I would like to ask the members to join me in welcoming Ken Monteith, the member of Parliament for Elgin, in the lower west gallery. Welcome.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Mr. Mackenzie: I have a question for the Minister of Labour. In 1982, a colleague of mine, Elie Martel, raised the serious problem of the large percentage of women employees in one of the departments of the Canadian General Electric lamp plant here in Toronto who are suffering from lung and uterus cancer. As a result of his request, a study was done by McMaster University, funded by the Ministry of Labour, the Workers' Compensation Board and the company and overseen by the company and

union joint safety and health committee. That study found a very large probability of cancer being caused by workplace contaminants.

1440

That was referred to the Industrial Disease Standards Panel which has just come down with an incredible decision that there is no absolute scientific proof, eight years after the workers started raising that case. Where is the benefit of the doubt for workers? What is the value of any new health and safety legislation in Ontario if there are no consistent criteria that allow probable workplace connections in cancer cases?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The member for Hamilton East has put a rather colourful interpretation on the facts in this question. I think it is appropriate for me just to set the record straight somewhat.

First of all, we were talking about the possibility of a relationship between workplace conditions and the fact that a small but significant number of workers—I think it was 11 women—had suffered breast cancer, not lung or uterus cancer. Of course, that is a tragedy whether it is associated with the workplace or not.

The Industrial Disease Standards Panel, subsequent to the study in 1982, undertook a thorough and exhaustive review of that question. Its report, which as I understand it recently was made public or became available to certain members of the public, has found, after the study, that it was not able to establish a link between the illness that has arisen in a small but significant portion of the worker population at GE and any particular cause within the workplace.

It has said therefore that the WCB, in considering claims, would have to rely on subsection 3(4) of the act to consider claims on a case-by-case basis.

Miss Martel: These women have been fighting this for eight years and they are no further ahead in getting justice from the board or from this government. Before the Industrial Disease Standards Panel was established, the WCB did grant compensation for cancers related to a specific work site; for example, at Inco at the sintering plant in Sudbury and again at Dofasco at the foundry in Hamilton. In those cases, compensation was granted to the workers on the basis of a probability of the cancer arising out of the workplace.

Now the panel is demanding that conclusive proof shows that the cancer was caused in the workplace. We are moving backward instead of forward. The panel should recognize the disease

is workplace-related if a probable connection is established. In the case of the workers at CGE, this was established in the McMaster study.

Will the minister tell the WCB that this situation is absolutely outrageous and that these women should receive the compensation they deserve?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I am incredibly surprised at the suggestion of the member for Sudbury East that I, as the Minister of Labour, should interfere in that process. She remembers that in this very House an announcement was made that the Industrial Disease Standards Panel, after exhaustive study, had determined to establish the criteria by which widows of gold miners would finally, in the Sudbury community and in other communities such as Timmins, be awarded compensation. Would the member have asked me to interfere in that determination?

Let's just clarify what the Industrial Disease Standards Panel said. It said that the very criteria the member for Sudbury East has suggested should apply, ought to apply. That is, compensation should be awarded if there were a probable cause or a probable link. After its study—not my study—the Industrial Disease Standards Panel has come to the conclusion that it did not find a probable link and, therefore, it has suggested, and I think rightly so, that the board consider the claims on a case-by-case basis in the very way the member for Sudbury East said claims were considered for those workers she referred to in Sudbury.

Although this is not happy news for those workers, I think that, at least for the time being, we have to abide by its determination and deliberation.

ROUGE VALLEY

Mrs. Marland: My question is to the Minister of Transportation. The minister seems to be refusing to think ahead in the decision about the east Metro transportation corridor which passes through the Rouge Valley. From the transportation plans that exist, can the minister guarantee that the Rouge Valley will not be hurt in any way by the construction of this freeway?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I would like to remind the member, as much as I appreciate her question, that she is again wrong, like her colleague the member for Markham (Mr. Cousens). The east Metro transportation corridor, which is a corridor we are protecting, does not go through the Rouge Valley. It is in the table lands, generally speaking, to the west. I would like to correct her

on her statement. She does not get any points for that one.

Mrs. Marland: I hope I am not waiting for the points award system from the Minister of Transportation.

Of course the east Metro transportation corridor does not go through the Rouge Valley, if the minister is talking about the valley per se, but I would like him to know that the people of Scarborough are concerned about the table lands as well as the valley itself and I would like him to be a little more respectful of the concerns of the people of Scarborough.

In fact it is very interesting, because when the minister was a member of Scarborough council, he too voted against that east Metro transportation corridor.

Mr. Speaker: The question would be?

Mrs. Marland: My question to the minister, recognizing that the minister did not get any points, I suppose, when he voted against the corridor when he was on council—

Mr. Speaker: We are not worried about points; we are worried about questions.

Mrs. Marland: If the minister was not worried about the destruction that the freeway would do, why did he vote against that corridor when he was a member of the Scarborough council?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I am not sure that a deliberation that took place in a former incarnation nearly 10 years ago has any particular relevance to this place. I am sure if the member would check the records of the issue, which her predecessors put in place, my objection as a member of Scarborough council had more to do with who was paying for the \$400-million services to go in-ground across Scarborough, across the Rouge Valley, in order to provide housing in Pickering.

ENERGY CONSERVATION

Mr. Tatham: My question is for the Minister of Energy. Looking down University Avenue at night, when we see the lovely lights shining from the many-storeyed windows of the commercial buildings along the street, one wonders is this a wise use of power. Is it for heat, is it for protection, is it for advertising? How many dollars do we have in capital investment to produce a kilowatt of power?

Hon. Mr. Wong: For planning purposes, Ontario Hydro estimates the typical capital cost for building new generating facilities ranges between \$1,000 and \$3,000 per kilowatt. Of

course, in addition there are transportation and distribution costs.

Mr. Tatham: Right now the world's oil production surplus capacity is at 10 million barrels a day. Only three million barrels of that surplus capacity is outside the Middle East. The Middle East has always been an unstable area. What kind of ongoing energy conservation program have we in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Wong: The Ministry of Energy conducts a wide range of energy conservation programs addressing all sectors. This year, fiscal 1988-89, all authorized expenditures are expected to exceed \$14 million.

I might point out that there are several programs within the ministry that address the commercial sector specifically. The Downtown Energy Forum program, in which the current participants save about \$10 million per year, and the Cities Energy Forum program are two examples.

I might add that Ontario Hydro is also embarking on an ambitious demand management program. Between now and the year 2000, it is expected that the utility will spend upwards of \$2 billion on information-driven and incentive-driven programs to reduce electricity demand.

HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DETENTION CENTRE

Mr. Allen: My question is to the Minister of Correctional Services. He will remember that last November, at the request of 240 staff at the Hamilton-Wentworth Detention Centre, and of myself in this House, he completed a study, through a consulting firm, of the air quality in that institution.

I am informed that the study focused simply on carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide and oxygen levels in the building, whereas anyone who has done anything with sealed-air buildings and their problems knows that you have to look at solvents, cleaning fluids, plastic emissions, perfumes, bacteria, moulds, particulate matter in the air and so on.

1450

Can the minister clarify for me, first, whether in fact the study was that limited; and second, where this whole issue is at in the ministry now with respect to how it is being treated?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: As far as the details of the report go, I would have to get back to the member as to all the different chemicals and compounds that were analysed in that study. I do know that the chemicals and compounds that were analysed

were all well within tolerances accepted by industry today, but I would be very pleased to get back with a copy of that study so the member could see that and the details of the different compounds.

Mr. Allen: I would be pleased to receive that, but so would the health and safety committee at the detention centre. I understand that this matter has been referred to the Ministry of Government Services. I would suspect that is not exactly the most neutral body in the matter, given that it is the landlord. I thought that this government's approach to health and safety matters was supposed to be bipartite: management and workers through the health and safety committee.

Will the minister please assure me that a copy of this study will be given forthwith to the health and safety committee so that it may examine it and make recommendations of its own and not be put in a reactive position later on?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I would like to assure the member that after we get the report back from MGS and its recommendations, we will share those recommendations with the occupational health and safety committee.

MUNICIPAL ZONING BYLAWS

Mr. Jackson: To the Minister of Municipal Affairs: Today on the front page of the Toronto Star we read that the government is poised to introduce an amendment to Bill 128 that would "strike down municipal bylaws restricting the number of unrelated people who may live in a dwelling." Can the minister confirm the accuracy of this report?

Hon. Mr. Eakins: I believe I have about six bills coming before the House, I hope this week. None deals with exclusionary bylaws except Bill 128. I believe the member had mentioned he was going to move an amendment to deal with that. That will make interesting discussion at that time, and we will look forward to his comments when Bill 128 comes into the House.

PETITION

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Mr. Campbell: This is a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario regarding Bill 162 from the Sudbury and District Labour Council, and I affix my signature to this petition.

REPORT BY COMMITTEE

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Mr. Philip from the standing committee on public accounts presented the 1987 and 1988 report of the standing committee on public accounts and moved the adoption of its recommendations.

Mr. Philip: It is a pleasure to table the committee's 1987 and 1988 report. Since becoming chairman of the committee, I have been happy to table a number of special reports, but this is the first annual report.

I want to pay particular mention to Wendy MacDonald, who has acted in a very professional and competent manner as our committee's researcher. She worked very hard and all members of the committee are very grateful for her assistance. We wish her well in her current research project of giving birth to her first child and we wish Wendy and her husband, Albert, well in this regard.

Our clerk, Doug Arnott, as always, was very helpful to the committee and provided me with sound professional advice.

All members of the committee have worked in a nonpartisan way. I greatly appreciate their efforts and their co-operation. Every committee member should be proud of his or her contribution to the excellent report I have just tabled.

In addition to reporting on its inquiries into the actions and omissions of various ministries and government agencies, this report describes in some detail procedural innovations which we believe will be of interest to other committees. The report also challenges the Legislature to change its outdated, inefficient and ineffective estimates processes and offers some constructive proposals in this regard.

On motion by Mr. Philip, the debate was adjourned.

MOTION TO SET ASIDE ORDINARY BUSINESS

Mr. Kormos moved, in the absence of Mr. B. Rae, that pursuant to standing order 37, the ordinary business of the House be set aside to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the steady increases in rates of automobile insurance since the promise made in Cambridge by the Premier (Mr. Peterson) on September 7, 1987, that he had a "specific plan" to reduce car insurance rates.

Mr. Speaker: For the information of the members, the notice was received in the proper

time. I have looked at standing order 37 and note, as I said, that it was received in proper time. However, when I went to standing order 37(b)(iv) which states, "the motion must not revive discussion on a matter that has been discussed in the same session under this standing order." I reviewed what had taken place previously in this session and I would like to read to the members the motion that had been put on a previous occasion:

"Pursuant to standing order 37(a), Mr. Runciman moved that the ordinary business of the House be set aside to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, that being: recent reports indicating that drivers in Ontario will be faced with massive auto insurance premium increases as a result of the Liberal government's mismanagement and as a consequence of its failure to honour its commitment to introduce 'a very specific plan to lower insurance rates' as promised by the Premier on September 7, 1987."

This is from the Votes and Proceedings dated December 6, 1988.

"After hearing the arguments of the mover and the representatives of the other parties, the Speaker put the question: 'Shall the debate proceed?' and the House having unanimously agreed, the debate proceeded to conclusion."

Therefore, I would have to note that this matter has been discussed previously during this session of parliament and would have to rule that the motion is out of order.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Generally, the order is that I have made my ruling. The member may, of course, challenge it if he so desires, but it is not debatable.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I understand that it is not debatable, but if you are not going to allow submissions to be made, I would prefer that you had either discussed this matter or raised this matter with us ahead of time. I think there is quite a different item being debated here and being submitted to you since we now have a report that has been tabled. It is quite a different matter.

Mr. Speaker: The member, I feel, is starting to debate my ruling.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I have no choice but to challenge the chair.

Mr. Speaker: The matter has been challenged by the member for Windsor-Riverside. The question I therefore have to put to the House is: Shall the Speaker's ruling be sustained?

1530

The House divided on the Speaker's ruling, which was sustained on the following vote:

Ayes

Adams, Ballinger, Beer, Black, Bradley, Brown, Callahan, Campbell, Caplan, Carrothers, Chiarelli, Collins, Conway, Cordiano, Dietsch, Eakins, Elston, Eves, Faubert, Fawcett, Ferraro, Fleet, Fontaine, Fulton, Grandmaitre, Haggerty, Harris, Hošek, Jackson, Kanter, Kerrio, Keyes, LeBourdais, Leone, Lipsett;

Mahoney, Marland, McCague, McGuigan, McGuinty, McLeod, Miclash, Miller, Morin, Neumann, Nixon, J. B., Oddie Munro, Offer, O'Neil, H., O'Neill, Y., Pelissero, Phillips, G., Polsinelli, Poole, Ramsay, Reycraft, Roberts, Runciman, Smith, D. W., Sola, Sorbara, Stoner, Sullivan, Tatham, Velshi, Villeneuve, Ward, Wiseman, Wong, Wrye.

Nays

Allen, Bryden, Charlton, Cooke, D. S., Farnan, Grier, Hampton, Johnston, R. F., Kormos, Laughren, Mackenzie, Martel, Morin-Strom, Philip, E., Rae, B., Reville.

Ayes 70; nays 16.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

INDEPENDENT HEALTH FACILITIES ACT (continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 147, An Act respecting Independent Health Facilities.

Mr. Speaker: I believe that the member for Parry Sound had adjourned the debate.

Mr. Eves: I had adjourned the debate some time ago on the Independent Health Facilities Act. I would just like to underline a few points with respect to this proposed legislation and then I will gladly relinquish the floor to other members who I know want to speak on this very important bill.

I think at the conclusion of my remarks several weeks ago, I was speaking about the position of the Ontario Nurses' Association and some concerns it had with respect to the Independent Health Facilities Act, as proposed.

Some of these concerns are as follows: that there are too many excessive powers being proposed to the minister and cabinet under the act; that the act severely limits the creation of new and lower-cost alternatives to physician and hospital services; that it possibly leaves the door open for extra billing of patients in the future; that

it permits the creation of health facilities on a for-profit basis, which in turn could lead to further privatization in health care services; that the act continues to leave the door open for foreign ownership of health facilities; that it permits funding of facilities on a fee-for-service basis; that there is a danger that standards of operation, including registered nursing staffing ratios, will not be adequate; that the act does not provide for resolution of disputes concerning terms and conditions of employment, especially for nurses; that the act does not provide for a mechanism to deal with issues concerning excessive workload and impact on provision of care, and that it does not deal with unanticipated events of an emergency nature.

The ONA is concerned that the act appears to have been developed without consideration of associations or unions involved in the health care industry and without consultation with the Ministry of Labour. Glenna Cole Slattery has been quoted as saying that the act may prove to be the beginning of a move away from length-of-stay reimbursement to case-mix reimbursement as an initial step to industry privatization.

I put on the record earlier the concerns that other health care professionals have with respect to this proposed bill. I do not want to go back to revisit them all, but I do want to raise a few points that I think are very important. We have asked the minister from time to time to respond to these questions in the House and we have not received direct answers to any of these questions that we have raised with respect to the act. I think it is incumbent upon the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) and the Ministry of Health to explain to members of the Legislature and the public what the answers to these questions are and why these powers are being sought.

Some time ago, I pointed out to the minister during question period that section 26 of the Independent Health Facilities Act gives the Ministry of Health inspectors authority to enter any health facility, and that includes a private doctor's office. "Health facility" and "independent health facility" are both defined under the act.

My point is, and the point that many people in the medical community have made and indeed patients across Ontario have made, is that if it is not the intention of the government to allow Ministry of Health inspectors to enter any health facility, why is it proposing to give them that power under the act? If it is only supposed to apply to independent health facilities, which are totally different from health facilities as defined

by this proposed act, then why is it giving this abusive power to Ministry of Health inspectors?

Under the proposed act, the inspector can take and seize records, charts, blood and tissue samples without any explanation to anybody about what is going to happen to these or what they are being seized for or taken for. It also gives the inspector the right to interrogate any person in a doctor's office. Presumably that would include not only physicians and nurses there, but patients there as well.

The most unbelievable of all is that the government inspector can do any of this without a warrant. I think this is in violation of the most fundamental principle of patient confidentiality. I have asked the Minister of Health about this on several occasions and I have yet to receive an answer.

1540

It was two Thursdays ago that the Minister of Health, my colleague the member for Riverdale (Mr. Reville), the NDP Health critic, and myself appeared on a TVOntario program for about an hour and a half. The minister indicated that one of the concerns she had and why she had not been able to implement a Smart card system in the Ministry of Health to improve the Ontario health insurance plan computer system, and why her predecessor was saying the same thing three years ago, was that primarily she had a concern about patient confidentiality.

That is exactly the opposite from what she is proposing to do with this legislation. She is concerned about patient confidentiality so she cannot deal with improving the OHIP computer system and a Smart card, but she is not concerned about patient confidentiality at all when she is talking about the Independent Health Facilities Act.

I think not only do members of this Legislature have a right to know, but every person in Ontario has the right to know why we need these draconian measures in the Independent Health Facilities Act. We are still waiting for an answer.

Another concern I have and I am sure a lot of Ontarians have about the proposed Independent Health Facilities Act is that currently under the Health Insurance Act, OHIP covers all services rendered by physicians that are medically necessary. The Independent Health Facilities Act purports to amend this to read "such services...as are prescribed by the regulations."

What this basically means is that the Ministry of Health, through regulation, will now determine what is medically necessary for patients in Ontario, not physicians. Quite frankly, it kind of

scares me to think that bureaucrats in the Ministry of Health will now determine what is medically necessary for patients, not practising medical doctors. That concerns me greatly, and we are still waiting for an answer on that point that many members of the Legislature have raised on several occasions with respect to this proposed piece of legislation.

In addition to those concerns, we have raised in this House through question period again on several occasions other features of the Independent Health Facilities Act as proposed by the minister.

This piece of legislation sets out an appeal process in which a person can appeal a decision made by the director of an independent health facility, and we concur with that. However, it also goes on to allow the minister to completely override the appeal process. The minister can decide to revoke a licence, to not grant a licence, to come in and take over an independent health facility without any recourse of appeal whatsoever.

I do not think that speaks very well of the system. Surely there should be some right of recourse to appeal from a decision that is made by a minister. I am not suggesting that this minister or a future minister is going to use this power arbitrarily or unfairly or inequitably, but surely in our democratic society, just as we do through the court system, or the judicial system, there is a right of appeal. Surely there should be a right of appeal if somebody feels he is wronged by a decision from the minister under this act.

The possibility exists for a Minister of Health to decide, for whatever reason—it could be personal beliefs or political reasons—to revoke or not grant a licence without any accountability whatsoever for that decision and without any recourse of appeal whatsoever to that decision. The vast majority of health professionals across this province are aghast at granting that sort of excessive power to any Minister of Health and we are waiting for an answer as to how the minister can justify that that power is indeed necessary.

I would also like to point out several opinions and editorials that have been raised, and questions that have been raised, with respect to Big-Brother-type medicine as proposed by the Independent Health Facilities Act in its current form. There is an editorial here from the Windsor Star dated September 12, 1988, entitled "Health Care—Unwarranted Intrusions," which says:

"If it shows up once it is too often, this propensity of those in government to camouflage

bad policies behind good intentions. As if it were the intentions, and not the policies themselves, that serve the public's needs.

"The way Ontario Health Minister Elinor Caplan justifies some of the intrusive aspects of the new Independent Health Facilities Act is that its intention is good, even though a close reading might show that it would be more appropriate in the law books of the Soviet Union.

"In a nutshell, the law would give government inspectors the power to seize financial, medical and other records from doctors' offices and clinics without first having to obtain a warrant.

"Quebec has its language police; Ontario now plans its health militia!

"Ontario has laws in place that give government inspectors the authority to enter medical offices and remove records after they show cause and obtain a warrant. But the new law would go beyond that, intruding into one of the few remaining preserves of personal and professional privacy. Even police investigating criminals need a warrant to enter and search private premises."

But not Dr. Barkin; he is more important than any of us in society. We all know that. That is not in the quote from the Windsor Star. Going back to the Windsor Star editorial:

"Health ministry officials claim the new law is designed to give inspectors access to records of private clinics to ensure that proper care is provided.

"In effect, all medical offices in Ontario will be subject to such visits. Caplan maintains the intention is 'to provide quality assurance in independent health facilities...it is not intended to interfere with the practice in a physician's office.'

"Yet the act would leave it up to ministry officials to determine whether such interference is warranted and whether it will take place. The authority for seizure of records of private clinics will be wielded not through a judge's warrant but on the say-so of bureaucrats who will also have the power to set standards and license independent health facilities.

"Under the circumstances it is not surprising that the medical organizations are dead set against the new plan. The authority of physicians will be undermined and patients will lose their privacy and the right to decide who may see their medical records and even their specimens—for the law authorizes inspectors to remove 'samples of any substances on the premises.'

"Bureaucrats will be totally in control."

That is the end of that editorial. I think it says it better than a lot of us have said it in the House. We have been questioning the minister for several months now about why these powers are needed. We questioned her in question period; we questioned her several weeks ago during the second reading debate of the Independent Health Facilities Act. We never get an answer.

I do not know how any democratic government in western society could introduce a piece of legislation with the unilateral, militia-type powers that are being proposed by this bill. It is a pretty drastic step. I think if powers are needed that are so drastic, unilateral, possibly dictatorial and undemocratic, then we are at least owed an explanation as to why they are needed.

"Patients' Big Brother" is a second editorial. It is from the Hamilton Spectator, dated September 10, 1988, "Medical snoopers a threat to privacy":

"No government in a democratic society should have the right to arbitrarily seize private medical records and specimens from doctors' offices. But health ministry inspectors will gain that abusive power if the Peterson government passes its proposed Independent Health Facilities Act in its present form.

"The act should be revised to protect the basic rights and privacy of patients before it becomes law. Health Minister Caplan said she would consult concerned people, including doctors, and consider changing the act. So the ruthless onslaught on personal privacy prescribed in the act does not yet have the force of law.

"The act lays down the rules governing private clinics, giving the government power to license and regulate such agencies as abortion centres and the outpatient clinics Ontario hopes will take the strain off the hospitals.

"It's practical and responsible to legislate standards for these institutions. But the legislation plunges beyond the limits of necessity, reason and responsible government by proposing to arm ministry inspectors with Gestapo-like powers to walk into a doctor's office, without a court warrant, and grab any and all documents and materials that would spread patients' most deeply personal and private records over the desks of bureaucrats and politicians.

"Medical policing machinery already exists in the government and in the professional licensing body, the Ontario college of physicians and surgeons, to protect against false billing and medical incompetence.

"These institutionalized safeguards are backed up by any patient's right to sue for malpractice.

The extra watchdogging proposed by the new act is as unnecessary as it is intrusive.

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"It would grant search and seizure powers to inspectors not only in the independent clinics but in any doctor's office. Neither doctor nor patient would have the authority to stop inspectors from seizing records, financial documents, blood specimens or urine samples. The once sacrosanct privacy of the doctor-patient relationship would cease to exist at the whim of bureaucracy.

"People understand that rules and regulations are necessary to prevent anarchy and abuse in a complex civilization. But a government that overrules and overregulates is as bad as a government that lets chaos reign. For, either way, citizens' rights are diminished.

"The measure of good government is in knowing how far to regulate without trespassing in people's private lives.

"In its present form, the proposed new law is more than an act of trespass; it's the tactical plan for an armed invasion of Ontarians' privacy. The arbitrary powers, which the government hasn't renounced since the act was introduced in June, throw a sinister shadow over the regime that conceived it."

I could go on. There are many editorials from newspapers all across Ontario with the same message—the Peterborough Examiner, the Sudbury Star, the Toronto Star, the Globe and Mail, the Toronto Sun, the Kitchener-Waterloo Record, the Ottawa Citizen, on and on.

I think the message is very clear. We have been asking the minister since she introduced this draft legislation in June to provide us with an answer. We are now standing here in February of the next year and she refuses to give us an answer to some very simple and serious questions about this proposed act.

For her to say, "We will look at and listen to all these complaints during the committee process," simply is not adequate or responsible in my view. I do not see how any minister of the crown with one ounce of responsibility, being well prepared and knowing what was going on in her ministry, could even table such a document for discussion in the Legislature without raising some questions herself, behind closed doors, in her own ministry with her own bureaucrats. I do not see how this legislation could ever hit the floor of the House.

Now that it has been here since June of last year, some eight months later, we still are no closer to having an explanation as to how this has arrived and not been changed. If the minister intends to change it, why does she not stand up

and say so? She has had eight months to do it. I do not see how such a regressive, draconian piece of legislation could ever hit the floor of the House without having been thoroughly reviewed in the largest ministry in the Ontario government.

I think it is a pretty sad day for health care in Ontario. The principle behind the Independent Health Facilities Act, I think we have all said, is a very good one. It may well in the long run lead to a more economic utilization of our health resources in Ontario. It may lead in the long run to more community-based health care and less institutionalized health care. But this piece of legislation has some serious flaws. I would like to have thought that any minister would have removed the most drastic of those flaws before the legislation ever hit the floor of the House.

We have heard about the concerns of the Ontario Medical Association. I made those concerns quite clear a few weeks ago and I am not going to revisit them. We have made the concerns of the Ontario Nurses' Association quite clear here this afternoon. There are also some concerns that the Ontario Hospital Association has with respect to the proposed Independent Health Facilities Act.

The Ontario Hospital Association supports the intention of Bill 147. However, it has some concerns with the content of the legislation. The OHA is concerned that the legislation will not cover treatment or diagnostic facilities such as laboratories that set up without ministry approval. These facilities have no cap on the number of procedures that can be billed to the Ontario health insurance plan because they are not globally funded as hospitals are. The OHA would like assurances that independent health facilities are subject to the same planning and approval process as other health facilities.

Other concerns include the question of cost-effectiveness. There has been no research done regarding cost-effectiveness of the movement of outpatient services from hospitals to independent clinics. There is also some concern that these facilities will duplicate hospital operations and will result in a forced reduction of outpatient surgery at hospitals.

Hospital administrators are concerned that there is no mention in the legislation that would allow hospitals to apply to run an independent health facility. Despite the fact that both the Deputy Minister of Health and the Minister of Health have said the hospitals will have a role to play in the legislation, administrators across the province do not believe Bill 147 includes them or hospitals.

Hospitals will have to be prepared to take any patients who develop complications during surgery at an independent health facility because patients cannot stay overnight at such a facility. Beds will have to be available to independent health facility patients in case of an emergency.

We have heard now from the main health care professionals, the main groups in health care in Ontario. We have heard the concerns the medical association has, we have heard the valid concerns the nursing association has and we have heard the valid concerns the hospital association has. We have heard the concerns of patients and Ontarians generally across the province with respect to some of these reactionary and—I do not think I could have said it better—Gestapo-like powers that this government proposes be introduced to help inspectors in the independent health facilities legislation.

I think it would be incumbent upon the government to itself revisit this legislation before it sends it out to committee, to remove those three or four abusive, arbitrary powers it is proposing under this legislation, which really are not seen in any other walk of life or any other legislation the Ontario government currently has.

I think we have to address the concerns of the potential abuse of these powers, the potential loss of privacy between patient and doctor and the lack of recourse to appeal from a decision by the Minister of Health. I think if the Minister of Health had addressed some of those issues that some of us raised last June, we would not be standing here in February of the next year still talking about the Independent Health Facilities Act on second reading.

We all know this act is a very complicated piece of legislation. It is a major departure from health care as we know it in Ontario. That may not be a bad thing. It may be a very good thing in the long run if there is going to be, I would suggest, at least a month of public hearings province-wide on this important piece of legislation. There are also probably going to be many days, if not weeks, of debate in committee on clause-by-clause. The minister could make the road for all of us and for every Ontarian a lot smoother if she would address the major flaws in this legislation before it goes to committee.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I would like to say a few words in this debate. It is important for members to take advantage of second reading. It is a time to speak about bills and principles and things they try to cover and the way they may succeed or fail to do so. It is also a good time to look at this in the

context of other things and just why we are here doing second reading of this bill at all.

This is a bill that, as members will know, was introduced last June. It has been called for second reading since that time only twice, although we have been meeting interminably, it seems to me, since then. It is a bill that was so important that, as of about Tuesday of last week, it was dropped from the House leader's wish list for this session. The plans were for this House to rise and the plans for the committees to get about the business they do following the completion of second reading of other bills were to go forward. Certain groups were going to travel here and there and other groups were going to have hearings here. All of a sudden, this bill becomes important to us again, so important that it can be called a second time since last June.

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Now that the government House leader, the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway), is here, I would love to talk about when this took place and why there was this change of heart. It must be difficult for the House leader and for the whip these days. For the new members who thought perhaps this was the case, it has been traditional that the House leader sees to the organization of the House business and makes decisions in concert with the other House leaders about what shall be done when, who shall speak and that kind of thing.

It was this government House leader who in discussions not so very long ago indicated to the other House leaders—that is the way they work these things—that in point of fact he thought we could complete our business here on the things the government needed by last week. The committees could then go about the business that was preordained, prearranged and already agreed to by the House leaders and by the Board of Internal Economy where moneys were going to be spent for those committees.

All of a sudden the real power showed itself. The Minister of Health must have got on the phone, one would presume, or maybe even corralled the Premier (Mr. Peterson) personally, and indicated that this bill, Bill 147—called only once before since its first reading last June 2, on that auspicious day of November 7, 1988—was so high on the government's agenda that she insisted it go forward this session, that we deal with it now in all its importance, with all its terrible flaws, because—well, we will come to why in a few minutes, but it was necessary now, even though it cannot go out to committee.

All members know that. The committees are fully booked—should they even be allowed to sit now, depending on how long the House continues, to be able to do the natural business we expect of committees in completing the kind of work this larger assembly does from time to time. If there is enough time for them to meet, everything they can do has already been established. Nothing more can be added.

Bill 147 cannot go anywhere until next summer even if we pass it on second reading now, yet we are to be here because it is of vital interest for us to be here. One would have expected that the House leader, up against the Minister of Health, given his long experience in the House and the support of the member for Middlesex (Mr. Reyecraft), the government whip, would have prevailed, not the Minister of Health.

But what should take place, to the wondering eyes of the chairman of the select committee on education and the members of other committees who had their business ordered, who had learned they were going to be able to sit and who had learned that this strange world we get into at the end of the session was not going to get in the way, that the macho gamesmanship this House is celebrated for was going to dissipate and we would all be able to get about the real business of the House—that is, to have our committees meet—what should occur but that the Premier himself should walk into the Liberal caucus meeting and basically say: “Forget the work of the committees, folks. We’re going in with Elinor’s Bill 147 even though it can’t”—sorry, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Health’s bill. I was just trying to get the ambience that must have been there, although, of course, I was not there. But I have heard from enough other people who are disgruntled about the lack of initiative by committees that is going to be the result of this decision.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Ed Philip doesn’t count.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I am talking about Liberals here, I say to the House leader. How hard it must be for the House leader to not interject at this point.

This is twice, two major times, that this House leader has been stepped on by the Premier. One will remember just a year or so ago, around December. This member, the House leader, obviously understood the way the House works and suggested that shutting things down around the free trade issue—remember that free trade issue which is dissipating from all Liberals’

minds these days? That issue could actually be dealt with by closure and we could get out.

He said this sort of thing. Maybe that was the mistake, saying this to other people. Then the Premier came down and let it be known that in fact we would sit until..., we would sit until..., and we would sit until it was absolutely necessary for something to happen. It was all very vague as to why. The poor House leader who had given him his best advice was left a little blushing. He does not blush much, I know, in terms of embarrassment, but he was feeling a little awkward.

The member for Middlesex, now sequestered under the press gallery here, was also, I feel, a little chagrined again that the Premier twice now, on two major, very public occasions, stepped on people.

Hon. Mr. Conway: It’s his appendectomy.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The House leader wants to blame this on the government whip’s appendectomy. I want to let him know that the member’s appendix was in great shape a year ago.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: It’s in a pickle jar now.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It is only this recent time that he has had it removed and pickled, as I am told.

I say to the House leader that I respected his judgement last week. I thought this was a wonderful step forward. I suppose he has now said to the Premier that if the Premier wants to be House leader, perhaps he should give himself that title. It is like coaching and managing in hockey. What we have here is the House leader of the government being told that he can tell the Liberal members who is going to go out on what shift, “You play left wing”—not many of them will play left wing—“you can play centre and you can play right.” That is about the extent of it now for the Liberal Party, once a reform party.

The rest of the big decisions about whether or not to hire or fire the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) with his preposterous bill of the other day, or whether to make any of those important kinds of decisions such as when we will rise or when we will sit, must be left to the Premier and his council. Where has Hershell Ezrin gone that these kinds of mistakes can be made?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Molson.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: He has gone to Molson. Has not everyone gone to Molson these days? I have some friends who will be leaving Molson, but that is another matter, unfortunately.

At any rate, what I am trying to come to here is just why we are dealing with Bill 147. What was it that was so important to the Premier and to the Minister of Health that we should be dealing with this? Let's look at that. I can only surmise because I do not have their confidences. I know you do, Mr. Speaker, and you can perhaps correct me if I am wrong about my conjecture here as to how these decisions get made.

Mr. Fleet: You're wrong.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: If the member for High Park-Swansea looks at the last few weeks, I say to him that things have not exactly gone right for the good ship Liberal. There have been rocky seas. Things just have not been the best.

Mr. Breagh: The irony is they had to hire a consultant to find out about it.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Exactly. In the old days they would have been told by their own good political sense that they were in trouble. Now they hire consulting firms to tell them just what desperate straits they are in.

The good ship Liberal was in some difficulty and on rocky seas. Traditionally, the wise thing at that point—I do not mean to speak as a parliamentary traditionalist here; I would not want to put myself in that kind of guise. In the old days, William Grenville Davis, once Premier, would have looked at matters, seen things on a slippery slope and said, "The best thing to do now is to take our break, regroup and stop those darn question periods that highlight certain kinds of problems we may be having these days," whether it was with health care in its enormity, whether it was housing, whether it was the problem of Sunday shopping, which the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Kanter) will know—

Mr. Breagh: Or where is Bob Callahan.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: —or whether it was just why the member for Brampton South (Mr. Callahan) is in the House today anyway, those kinds of major difficulties. What the government does is withdraw a little bit, regroup, come back with its budget, try to set it up on its terms and take it out of the control of the opposition.

Mr. Eves: Don't give them too much advice, Richard.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I tried to. I offered this advice, I say to the whip for the third party, just recently and thought it was sage advice and would have assisted all parties involved. But no, there is this strange death wish now gripping the Liberal Party as it wants to dissuade any voter out there from believing that they may ever have

been reformers at all. The Liberals now want to make sure they all understand that the blue is over there these days and what is red seems to be with the member for Leeds-Grenville (Mr. Runciman). But that is another matter; that was quite a bizarre appearance today.

The world does change and conservatism has found its way back across the floor to the government side, as has been the tradition in this province. Maybe it is something to do with the seats or the air on that side of the room; I am not sure. It certainly does not seem to bother the rump a great deal, those people who seem to feel they will get themselves into cabinet by making large, rude noises, which has worked for others; I would not say that it will necessarily work for all.

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When things are going wrong, what does the government do? My suggestion, as I say, was to withdraw a little bit. But no, the government's notion—sorry, the notion of the Premier and the embattled Minister of Health—was to say: "What we have to do is show that we're taking some action. We haven't gotten anything done, except that we have finally brought through, as incompetently as we could, closure on Sunday shopping. We finally got that through. But other than that, we've done nothing since the accord. People are actually beginning to believe we haven't done much since the accord. That's not a good thing, so let's come through with our best shot and let's do it in an area where we're in the most trouble."

That was tough because they had to choose between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Housing as to which was really in the worse shape. What they have done is come forward with the only act they have been able to present on health. There are enormous problems that are out there in the health care system at the moment. The only thing they had to offer us was this pathetic thing called Bill 147. Their intentions may have been good, but it is a very flawed bill, indeed. It does not accomplish the goals that were established. I will come to those specifically with the minister in a few minutes. Some of them, in fact, allow for just the opposite of what she would wish for. That is a fundamental error.

Rather than coming forward with a new bill or new amendments to let us know the major changes the government wants in this bill, to show that it is something other than that which was panned last June by almost all the critics, it has come back with just this little piece of legislation to cover the terrible problems out there in the health care system.

It is like trying to use a doily to cover a cesspool. It may look okay for a second, but do not step on it because if you step on it and test it, you will go through into the mire that is below. Such are the problems that are there in terms of overexpenditure in the health care service field and a deterioration in services which is really very devastating.

To that I would like to turn, first, to look at what this bill purports to do in terms of moving things to the community and allowing greater resources to be going into community health centres, supposedly away from the institutions. This is purportedly the first choice of the government.

Today I went to visit a friend of mine who lives a few doors down from me who was recovering from a double bypass at Toronto General Hospital, which he was happy to say had only been delayed four times. As a double-bypass patient, you are not one of the more serious contenders for bumping upward on the bypass operation schedule. He had dealt with it very well, I am pleased to say, and his recovery is remarkable. He hopes to be coming home tomorrow. But the tremendous stress that is placed on those individuals who are waiting for what may be life-saving surgery—and I say “may be” because you never know with hearts—is a terrible burden which should not be foisted on anyone.

Members of this House will know that I had my run-ins on the heart illness side of things and I participate at Toronto General in a rehabilitation program on a regular basis. Let me tell members about the mood of the people who participate in that program these days. It used to be that people went there feeling very upbeat, never totally sure that getting our hearts stronger by running around the gym or walking around the gym, whatever the program might be, was actually going to save us in our next incident, but feeling that we were doing something to change our lifestyles somewhat to reduce the risk.

It was a very upbeat kind of place to be. There was a lot of camaraderie and support. There were always people who were having difficulties, whose angina was coming back, who were having others kinds of arrhythmia and symptoms which were causing the need for more care, sometimes more operations, but there was always a sense that basically we were well placed because of what we were doing, our proximity to the hospital and their knowledge of our cases and that sort of thing.

These days, people are a lot less secure. People really wonder nowadays what will occur for them if they start to get a recurrence of their symptoms again. Will they be bumped four or five times? Will they be like that unfortunate gentleman from Etobicoke who died as he was being bumped? Will they be like the people I have sent example after example to the Minister of Health about from my riding who were bumped, whose health continued to deteriorate and deteriorate and whose families went through enormous crises; or will they get the services which a few years ago they might have expected a little more quickly?

It is a daily thing. It is a real thing. We go Tuesdays and Thursdays and there is not one day that passes that one of our members, because there are a lot of us who participate, has not had to go back to the hospital or is not at home waiting to go back to the hospital, which is much more likely today, and there is a sense—it is not a pall, it is not that negative, but there is a disquiet which is overtaking that group—and a real concern that things are out of control.

What does the government offer? It offers us Bill 147. Perhaps the members remember when it was introduced. A number of us had hopes that this government would move to dramatically increase the amount of community-based programs and health facilities that would be available in the community.

The context in which it was brought in, of course, was the free trade debate. Members may recall that it was brought in at the same time as the Power Corporation Amendment Act and the Water Transfer Control Act, as part of a triumvirate of bills which would challenge the federal government's authorities around free trade and would assert the rights of the sovereign jurisdiction of Ontario to establish itself and say that we would not be pushed around by the free trade Mulroney government.

This bill was reported widely in the press. The minister said, and her flacks pushed as strongly as they could, that this bill would be one of the ones which was most important in terms of establishing Ontario's rights in health care, to stop free trade in health.

It is interesting that since those first announcements, I have not heard one word about free trade and health care come out of the minister's mouth. I read again her speech of November 7, a very short speech for such an important bill, which is now being called today for us to discuss for the second time at second reading even though it will never be able to go to committee until the

summer, but we are told that it must be finished second reading in this next week. It is a very short speech which does not mention free trade once.

The reason for that, of course, is that it was a bogus assertion that this bill would ever be established to do anything at all about free trade. One would presume that if they wanted to do something about free trade, they would have established in this act, Bill 147, the right of the government of Ontario to ban multinational health corporations from establishing themselves as independent health facilities in Ontario. That is what you would have seen if this really was an anti-free-trade bill.

Is that anywhere in this act, I ask rhetorically? No, it is not, not at all. In fact, there is nothing in this act which says that they will even stop more commercial development in this health care system of ours, which is overburdened by the profit motive, which is being bankrupted by the profit motive and other kinds of concerns.

No, this was as much an anti-free-trade bill as that silly thing we passed at second reading the other day that was brought forward by the Minister of Natural Resources. You will remember the debate on that, Mr. Speaker, and the wonderfully astute analysis by one of our pages, Richard, in terms of the absolutely ludicrous notion that we can control water supplies being diverted from the Great Lakes to the United States, and that the minister actually got up in this House and sat over there in the seat of the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) and had the nerve to tell us that he would stop the Americans from coming across and taking water out of the mouth of the Humber River.

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It is just a silly bill. There we were, and we have no jurisdiction. The Attorney General (Mr. Scott), who is usually so precise and so precious about the legal nuance, did not even tell him that we do not have control over the Great Lakes. There is an international joint decision-making process which must take place. The only bodies of waters and basins of waters we can control are those within our jurisdiction entirely. Whenever I am feeling low and need a little chuckle, I will read that Hansard for years to come. The longer I sit here, the more I may need to read it, but it was one of the most preposterous legislative days I have ever participated in.

Just to put this in context, that, of course, is one of the three joint bills, the other being the power bill which was withdrawn because it was so inappropriate in terms of its supposed free trade effects. Then we have this bill. Again, I

would say the Minister of Health went on and on, when she introduced this in June, about how this was going to assert our position versus the federal government and our rights to control our health care system and to stop free trade. Yet there is not one provision in this act which does that and which she is now even willing to talk about, even willing to mention, let alone say that is one of the major functions.

Let's look at one of the issues of this which concerns me the most. I am the women's critic for this party, a role that in fact I volunteered for but would rather have the leader still hold. I have some real difficulties with these kinds of portfolios being in the hands of secondary ministers rather than in the hands of the Premier and under his control, as something which will with his authority then permeate more easily all the aspects of the various ministries.

One of my major concerns over the last number of years—in fact, I could say I have been involved in the issue since I was elected in 1979—is the question of access to abortion. I know this minister, in her first election campaign, spoke out very strongly on this issue. She came under a pretty substantial attack in her own riding, as some of us have become used, election after election, to being the targets of certain groups which disagree with us.

Mr. Philip: But she beat John Williams. For that everyone is eternally grateful.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: As the member for Etobicoke-Rexdale reminds me, she did force the demise of the previous member, Mr. Williams. There are days when I still feel positive about that, I admit. Then there are days, like today, when I really wonder what we have gained, not through lack of the minister's being well-meaning but, unfortunately, through either sloppiness or incompetence, which really worries me.

I say to the minister, knowing how she feels about this issue, that on the question of how independent health facilities would affect access to abortion, she needed to write a bill which could not be subverted by any Minister of Health who felt opposite to her. To make this personal, because I remember the comments about this bill when it was brought forward and how different the comments were between the Minister of Health and the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney), I suggest this bill needed to be written, from my perspective as somebody who is pro choice, as if the Minister of Community and Social Services were going to become Minister of Health some day; so that in

no way could a minister, who had a different approach than pro choice and equal access on abortion, subvert this legislation.

The Minister of Community and Social Services rightfully said this bill, in the guise of actually being able to assist women to have independent health clinics across Ontario, could actually be used and would actually be used to guarantee that we would have no more.

If members read this bill, as I have now done carefully several times, I think it is inescapable that the analysis of the Minister of Community and Social Services is right and that the approach by the Minister of Health has been faulty, to be generous.

Look at it in terms of what it does. This act, it is true, will allow the Scott Clinic and the Morgentaler Clinic to have a year's grace in which to apply to be approved as independent health facilities. As such, they will have to prove themselves to meet a number of criteria, any of which could easily be used by a minister hostile to their facilities to deny them their right to operate.

For instance, if I might read just some of the things that are necessary contents in a request for operation. Some of the things which could be included are whether or not the services are appropriate and whether they are needed in that particular area. There is large, large room for power under regulation by the ministry to make that easy or hard for any particular group. I will come back to regulations later on. One would have hoped we would have seen them by now.

So what we can have is that even the two clinics which were existing before the announcement of this bill in June 1988 are going to have to prove themselves, even though the Supreme Court of Canada has said that they have the right to operate. What if they do not meet the criteria of a perhaps hostile minister? Who can tell where ministers will be in the future, in the next year or two? That minister can stop those clinics from operating, even though the challenge before the Supreme Court of Canada taken by the Morgentaler Clinic was, in fact, upheld.

Not only that, but even with that supposed protection that is there in terms of a grandfathering clause for a year for those clinics that are operating, there is a problem for those that have come in since. Members may know that a women's clinic was established by Dr. Nikki Colodny and some others to operate in this city after June 2, 1988, when this bill was brought in.

Under this bill, they will have to get a district health council for this region to give them

priority to the minister. Then, again, hopefully there will be a friendly minister and not a hostile minister who can make the determination as to whether this program should go forward. A director, as appointed under this bill, will be able to make a determination as to whether or not that clinic which is operating because of a need felt by women in Metropolitan Toronto and outlying districts—because many women come to Metro for these services—should be able to continue to do what it has been doing.

I think that is totally unacceptable. Let's look at it. Does anybody in this House—and some members have been more active on health councils than I have been—know of a health council in Ontario which has given priority to the establishment of a women's clinic to provide abortion services? I would be very interested to hear that because I do not believe that one district health council in Ontario has done that. Why not? Because this is a difficult political issue. This is a scary kind of local issue for a district health council.

With the huge range of needs that are out there for services in the community, what health council is going to put itself on the line and place an abortion clinic above a community mental health centre, above even a new community health centre itself in a poorer district of town, above a fancy high-technology office operated for profit by some very well known and prestigious doctors in that community. My answer is that no health council in its right mind will do that, because all it will be doing is courting public hostility, from its vantage point, unnecessarily. Its argument will be that the hospital committee system or whatever is operating in its own community or in a neighbouring community will be sufficient, thank you very much.

1630

Let's look just at Metro, progressive Metro, where we actually have three clinics operating. What is the likelihood here of all three of those clinics getting that kind of endorsement? I would suggest very little indeed.

One says to oneself: "Where is the Liberal government on this issue?" This minister has taken flak on this issue, as I and other activists have taken flak on it. We have our scars. Are we not going to gain something from all of this? Are we not going to ensure that there is access and that we not set up a different system, one which will make it excruciatingly difficult for any group of women such as the Colodny clinic, the Women's Choice Health Clinic, which is a

co-operative, to establish itself for these purposes against the wishes of the medical hierarchy, which will show itself, vested in the district health council?

I would suggest that with this bill we have taken a giant step backwards in terms of access to abortion services and other kinds of assistance that would be available to women who are trying to make the terribly difficult decision about whether to have an abortion.

I have not heard this minister speak about that issue, or why she thinks the process she has established in this act is appropriate in this circumstance. I have no idea why the grandfathering section of this act, for instance, did not make it more implicitly obvious that any facility which is out there now doing a good job and meeting a need, especially a nonprofit one, would be looked upon extremely favourably.

We have the ironic situation here where it would be quite possible for a district health council to recommend that an American-based, multinational, for-profit organization should establish a facility in its area to deal with some sort of high-technology service like neonatal care and give it higher priority than a community-based, nonprofit organization which wanted to provide access to abortion. Under this act, that would be the facility that would go forward under the limited money the government has, as it continually tells us, and the other would not be the one to proceed.

I want to hear from this minister why it is that she has come back to us on February 13, 1988, several months after this was last brought in for second reading, and is telling this House, and the women members of this House, if I might be particular about this, that it is so important to have second reading on this act now, even though we cannot have public hearings on it or any of the problems in it until this summer.

She has not made one statement in this House about major drafting changes she would propose to make sure access to abortion was not negatively affected by this bill. She has not done it; she has not said a thing about it, yet here we are debating this legislation which is going to set that incredibly emotional issue back years and is going to cause a great deal of grief for a lot of people.

I would like to deal next with the issue inherent in this bill around privatization and commercialization. Again, this act pulls its punches. It does not assert how nonprofit facilities are going to get priority. It does not say what kind of advantages they will be given in order to make sure that they

have a better chance than others that are of a profit-making basis.

Let's just remember that, as I said earlier, the health care system is rife with for-profit organizations. In my view, it is one of the serious difficulties that needs to be confronted by a government. In that context, I would say to you, Mr. Speaker—although you were not a member of the last House—that under a minority situation and as part of the accord, back when Liberals seemed to be progressive, the government of the day established a select committee on privatization and commercialization.

During the brief time that we sat as a select committee, the Liberals on that committee slithered away from any strong protection of the nonprofit sector in either health or social services, not understanding the inherent dangers to the system if we moved further and further into for-profit health care, especially given the context of free trade, which was already hanging over our heads at that time.

This blue, conservative Liberal government has decided not to reappoint that select committee. It has had ministers up in this House, whether it is the Minister of Community and Social Services or this Minister of Health, who have spoken unconvincingly about the role of for-profit agencies in their two areas of responsibility.

I wonder if I can read some of the expenditures to you, Mr. Speaker, that have been made by the government of Ontario into for-profit care in Ontario. The year is 1987-88, money transferred to commercial providers: nursing homes, \$322 million of taxpayers' money; laboratories, \$318 million; drug companies, pharmacists and oxygen vendors, \$589 million; homes for special care, \$85 million; ambulance services, \$44.8 million; contracted-out services in hospitals, \$153 million. That is \$1,511,000,000 spent on the commercial sector.

One would have hoped, therefore, as has been much vaunted by Liberals, that this bill would have made it very clear that the growth we want in the community health facilities would be entirely in the nonprofit sector; that we would no longer see an expansion of programs that made money for people who were trying to provide health care services for our vulnerable citizens. This bill does not do that.

I have to look at where we are now in local independent facilities. I think the minister will agree with me that the vast majority of services which are provided out there, which may get themselves termed to be "independent facilities"

under this act, are commercial enterprises at this time. There is a parallel, I would suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, between the nursing home situation and this government's supposed endorsement of more nonprofit nursing home care and the way this act is laid out in terms of supposedly assisting the nonprofit sector to take advantage of this new Independent Health Facilities Act.

The government led us to think that its funding of nursing homes was going to change dramatically and that the beds that would be approved would be hugely in the nonprofit system and almost not at all in the commercial system and that we would start to see a change from what had taken place over the last 15 years or so. I guess it is even longer than that since the Conservatives brought in the Nursing Homes Act originally; that was in 1973, if my memory serves me correctly.

1640

We had in those days a preponderance of nonprofit organizations, a fairly large number of beds that were community-run and municipally run. We then moved almost entirely to a for-profit base; and not just a for-profit base, it must be understood, but a multinational corporation base. Just a handful of giant corporations control virtually all the major nursing homes in Ontario, and in some communities it is like 85 per cent under the control of these American multinationals.

The government supposedly was going to change all this with its legislation. We warned them that in point of fact it would be very difficult for nonprofit organizations to compete on an equal footing with the for-profit organizations.

Why? As anybody who has tried to get a nonprofit organization established knows, it is much easier to get capital if you are already listed on the stock exchange than if you are a group of interested people, whether coming together because of a bond of, say, a religious grouping or a particular interest around an age group, like seniors, for instance, in your community and you then want to provide a nursing home.

It is virtually impossible for a volunteer group to get money for the capital involved. It is incredibly easy for a corporation to use its own equity and collateral to be able to access the same kind of dollars that are needed and at a much lower rate of interest than a nonprofit group would be able to get.

It is interesting that this minister has not responded as yet to a question in Orders and Notices put by the critic from our party to try to discover how many of the nursing home beds

which have been created, since they came to power as a Liberal government, were nonprofit and how many of those were commercial.

That is an easy statistic to gather in these days of freedom of information, I say somewhat sarcastically. We have been unable to get that straightforward statistic from the government, but I can tell members anecdotally, from my experience of seeing new nursing home beds go up in this area, the large percentage goes to for-profit organizations and it is still the big corporations that are providing them.

I look at this act and I say, what is it in this act that should make me believe that the end result is going to be any different for the independent health facility than that which has been provided for nursing homes in Ontario?

I cannot see anything. There is nothing in this document which talks specifically about how the ministry will give preference to a nonprofit organization. There is nothing in here which directs the first decision-maker in all of this, which is the district health council, as to how it is going to be able to encourage that kind of development, rather than a group of well-financed specialists coming together to provide a very selective, perhaps even surgical facility in that community on a for-profit basis.

Perhaps I am to believe that this, like so many other things, is in the regulations and that within these regulations under section 33 we are going to see the way the government is going to assist.

I would suggest to the minister that she has had since June of last year to tell us how this will happen. This has been a major critical analysis of all the people who have looked at her bill at this point. We, as yet, have no idea as to how she is going to do this.

I wonder, for instance, if the minister will not agree that the major initiatives in nonprofit nursing homes seem to be initiatives that are undertaken by hospitals, not by small community groups. The minister and I had a brief discussion the other day about a much talked about and much-lauded concept which was around a while back, and that was the idea of more ethnic nursing homes which would be run by the communities themselves.

There are presently many facilities that provide housing to older people whose first language is not English, but very few nursing homes. We have that very sad situation where persons in their 70s or 80s are living in assisted housing with a lot of friends of, say, Yugoslavian descent. They are all able to talk, to remember life in the old country and also be able to talk about what is

happening presently in Canada with their common bond of language and experience. Then they become ill and they require extended care. They have to go an institution where the major language is English. For those last years or months, whatever the case may be, they end up in an incredibly foreign milieu. At the time when they need all the nurturing assistance they can get, it is unavailable to them.

We have not seen a major expansion—this is an example—of those kinds of nursing homes, established by those organizations that are there, whether they are Estonians, Macedonians, Italians or people from Southeast Asia. They exist out there. They are hungering to be able to provide these kinds of homes and yet they have not been told that these extended care beds will be made available to them.

The minister may feel that I am unnecessarily jaundiced in my perception of this bill, but I say to you, Mr. Speaker, that you have seen even more legislation than I have in the years that you have been here. This is a bill which spends a huge amount of time talking about how to license and regulate after the facilities are established. We will come, in a minute, to the whole question of confidentiality.

The bill is incredibly loose and very badly formulated in terms of the establishment of services. If the government really has taken the analysis that it is time for us to shift ourselves from the fee-for-service structure that is out there, the high-technology concentration in the hospitals, and to throw our resources into community-based services—a lot of which would be these independent health facilities—then it has come up with the wrong piece of legislation by which to do that. It has set up a process which guarantees that the health hierarchy will get what it wants, that community-based initiatives will still flounder out there, and it has not dealt with that crucial issue.

I come to the fact that this legislation is so wrongheaded it should not be here. The government should be tackling its problems in health care rather than accentuating them. By having this kind of forum all it is doing is drawing more and more fire, it seems to me, in terms of its failures.

This is a government that cannot decide what it wants to do. It cannot decide what it wants to do about doctors' salaries. It cannot decide what it wants to do about major capital expenditures. It now even wants us to discuss the lottery funding of health. I will come back to that in a few minutes, but the only bill it provides us to deal

with here is this thing, which needed to be withdrawn and rethought. I regret that, especially since there is really no point in us having this discussion until much closer to our hearings and it would have been better to do that with a revised bill which would have been more suitable to take out for public hearings.

1650

Let's look at the issue of community health centres, because for many of us those are concepts which need elaboration and some major changes which I will come to. But how will they do in the context of Bill 147?

Just this very day in the Legislature the minister got up to make a statement. Some days we will get five or six statements, a real hodgepodge of real issues and puffery. Today we got a statement by the Minister of Health, who, with the most enormous budget of any ministry in the government, said that two more community health centres were going to be established in Ontario: one in Barrie, as I recall, and one in Oshawa.

As the critic for our party, the member for Riverdale, said so articulately in his response to the statement, even if the government meets its target and doubles the number of centres that are out there by 1991 or 1992, by that year we will still only be dealing with four per cent of the patients of Ontario through health centres rather than through the regular private enterprise approach to doctoring and through hospitals. Four per cent.

So we ask ourselves what we are to think of a government whose best shot at health—given the problems that are out there with the nursing shortage, the huge overexpenditure, the problems of service that I have elaborated on for heart patients, but applied just as strongly to people who are waiting for cancer treatment and other kinds of specialized service—is to come into this House and say, "We are going to have two more community health centres."

Well, Mr. Speaker, do you know why there are only two more? It is because the process for establishing a community health centre is the most arduous that one can imagine, and there is nothing in this act which is going to change that or even touch that at all. It takes a year and a half to two years for a determined little board of people to be able to convince the bureaucracy of this government that it needs a community health centre. To do it, the board needs to jump the most incredible hurdles.

The first is that it has to prove that it has a specific need; that there is a specific community

that can be identified which has need of its services. I will just recount my own experience with trying to get a centre into the Warden Woods community. We had to limit it to the Warden Woods community because it had to be a special community.

The Warden Woods community is an assisted housing community. There is a fair amount of seniors' housing and a fair amount of family housing. We had to be able to then draw together information which would prove to the government that the doctors of the area surrounding Warden Woods were not providing the kinds of services that were needed for that community and that this health centre could do so in a more appropriate fashion.

We were supposed to go out and survey those doctors and find out what they were doing and survey the people in the community and find out what kind of health care they were receiving. We were to do some kind of analysis of the appropriateness of the health care they were getting. Mr. Speaker, you will be pleased to know that the Ministry of Health would not provide one red cent to assist that burgeoning group to do that kind of work.

I know the minister understands what it is like to live in poverty in Ontario. I know she knows the kinds of burdens that are on people who are trying to get by in that milieu. The fact that they would actually come together and try to establish a centre was, in my view, enough reason to open the purse and give them some assistance.

But we were told by the two bureaucrats who were involved in this area at that time—I do not know how many are there now, whether there has been an exponential expansion or not—that there was not a penny available to them, that they could talk to other health centres that had already got theirs. Members should know that there are only a handful of these in the province. Before this government came into place there were 12 or so, I think, and we have added a handful more.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Eight.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Eight more now?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I think so.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Is it approximately that? That is all there are. They were to go to these people; in fact we had them to some of our meetings.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: A very significant increase.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The minister says it is a significant increase. If we are looking at it in

statistical terms and want to say it is a 50 per cent increase, then yes it is, that is wonderful.

What I am saying is we have a program that is designed for failure, that is designed to make too many hurdles for people to jump through. If the minister wanted to remove some of the restrictions, if she wanted to provide money for community development, I could guarantee her she would have a tripling or quadrupling of the numbers.

If the minister wanted to change the definition, as a member of a progressive, reform-minded government to be more permissive, to get across perhaps the notion that even a middle-classer like me should be able to have access to a community health centre, that I do not have to be part of some disadvantaged, self-selected group in society to be able to be given one, that this is not something for the poor or the indigent but something that would be a good thing for all Ontarians to have access to; if she chose, for philosophical reasons, for service reasons, to get away from the fee-for-service notions, whatever one might say, that would be different. But this government has not done that.

If this government—

Interjection.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I say to the member for Niagara South (Mr. Haggerty), who has been here a long time and knows how hard it was getting this government's predecessor, the Conservative government, to move on this issue and who has heard me say the same kind of things to a Conservative government as I am saying today, so he will know there is no change in my tune here, if we had in fact got those kinds of changes we would see an enormous growth in these community health centres.

It is a tremendous irony that there are more community health centres per population in the United States than there are here in Ontario. Even in their for-profit system, there are more and more of them. That seems to me to be a great irony.

Mr. Haggerty: They are going to be cutting back.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I ask the minister and I ask the member for Niagara South to look at Bill 147 and say why it is that this bill does not have in it the tools to change the way we fund community health centres and how we look at them. Why is there not something specific in here that says we want to see this growth? It is because—and the minister almost admitted it the other day in response to a question, or perhaps it was a statement in the House, when she said health care

professionals are able to identify the needs but nobody is willing to say which has the highest priority.

This government has exactly the same problem. It has been unable to determine where its action should go either and so it has come forward with this little piece of patchwork legislation to make it look like it is doing something at the end of a session, thereby giving me the opportunity to run through what it is not doing in so many areas. It has not even placed in this something to show it to be different from prior Conservative governments.

I have asked this minister and I have asked her predecessor as Minister of Health for the Liberal government, as I have asked past Tory government ministers, to change the way we deal with community health centres, to give them financial priority. We have had no assurance that that will take place. In fact, all we have seen are these one or two new ones, a total of perhaps eight in the whole province. Rather than saying the government is committed to a change of philosophy, of a major new direction in how we deliver health care, the minister says she is willing to go along the line of the Conservative past governments and just increase the numbers under the old methodology.

I presume it is a fear of the doctors' lobby. I presume it is a fear of the notion of the independent health practitioners who came before our committee on Bill 94, the extra billing hearings, and said to us that they were small businessmen. I presume it is not wanting to get in their way too much.

Maybe that is why this government has pulled its punches on commercialization and privatization in this bill. Maybe that is why it still makes it very clear that although certain other kinds of groups are going to have to define what they are as independent health facilities, doctors' offices are sure not going to have to do so. They are going to have an awful lot of leeway in terms of what they can do in their offices and bill to OHIP on the old fee basis rather than developing a real community service.

1700

I think it is a major failure in the government's philosophical approach. They cannot decide whether this element of reform is going to be a crucial way of reducing costs and humanizing services over the years. They are afraid to take on that concept of the right of the individual doctor to be the private businessman. Because of that, they have really limited the effectiveness of what Bill 147 could be. And therefore I wonder why all

the foofaraw? Why do we have to deal with this so quickly when they cannot get it out to committee anyhow to hear everybody else jump all over it like I am today?

I have here a file from our critic, the member for Riverdale, about the Toronto birth centre. Members who have been here for some time will know that this issue has been around for a long time as well. I may be wrong in my reading of Bill 147, and I am sure I will be corrected if that is the case, but it strikes me that the old proposal for a birthing centre in the city of Toronto would fit under Bill 147. It would be the kind of thing that could find its way now as an independent health facility.

I am wondering what the reality is, whether it has any better chance of getting funding now than it has had in the past with existing legislation. It is going to have to prove itself to the district health council. It is going to have to prove its need to a ministry which clearly has not felt there was very much need there in the past or it would have found money for it. One wonders, therefore, whether we are going to see any major changes of that sort in the province.

It seems to me that this legislation makes health service organizations a little easier than they are presently. It is an awful lot easier for a doctor or a couple of doctors to establish a health service organization than it is to establish a community health centre.

This was an understandable difference coming from a Conservative philosophy, again in terms of allowing the doctor, the professional, the leeway of determining the need. Of course, an HSO can be established by a doctor declaring a need, putting down his patient registry with a companion physician's patient registry. If they have enough names for which they are already billing OHIP they will be able to establish an HSO. They do not have to establish need at all. They do not have to jump through the hoops a community group has to jump through if it wants to establish a community health centre.

It is a very interesting dichotomy that was established by the past Conservative government, and there is no indication in this legislation at all that there is going to be any change. Therefore, that kind of quasi-profit-based organization is one that will be quite easy to continue.

It would be interesting for members to know that if they studied HSOs, saw what has happened to a number of them, the number that have collapsed, which have been used for purposes, I would suggest, other than just straight health services—more for establishing

some doctors in the community and then allowing them to go off in their own private practice afterwards—they would really wonder whether we should be giving that kind of priority to HSOs over the community health centres.

I look at this government and say it has an Ontario drug plan that is in terrible shape. The only initiative we have heard about that is what was alleged by my leader to the Minister of Health the other day, that is that a lot of people are going to lose their services, that things that are now on the formulary are not going to be on the formulary in the next little while. For the next few months people may be living in jeopardy, between March and when the formulary comes out in July, about whether the particular drugs they are purchasing are going to be paid for, and may find that in point of fact they are not.

It is an interesting fact that the problem of overprescription and incorrect prescription, and there is lots of evidence on this, should be dealt with in that fashion by the ministry. I have been involved with monitoring a couple of collections of drugs that have been done on a voluntary basis with seniors in buildings. I remember one case in North York where one senior had 26 different prescribed drugs in the medicine cabinet, a lot of which were counteractive and quite dangerous in combination. That senior had forgotten which was for what and was, therefore, put in some jeopardy on a regular basis.

I look at that kind of problem of incorrect prescription, the lack of checkup on the number of prescriptions that somebody has and the incorrect use of drugs in that fashion, and I say to myself that enormous numbers of dollars are going to the drug companies through the pharmacies. We pushed through some legislation, bills 54 and 55, to deal with that, but I do not see any notion of really coming to grips with the problem of the patterns of prescription that have been there in the past.

Instead we have Bill 147 before us. We have this little doily that is being proffered as a Liberal government solution required by the time we rise for no apparent logical reason at all, except perhaps for the vanity of the Minister of Health or the Premier. I am not sure which of them feels that this is so crucial to get through.

There is a problem, I suppose, of ministers and governments getting themselves too wrapped up in their own legislation and frustrated by what is seen as opposition belligerence and obstructionism. At some point or other, when they have a majority of 94 strong and barely awake, it is time to put their feet down and say: "We'll show you.

We'll stay here and we'll make you debate this piece of legislation. We'll show you that we can force this kind of thing through. That will make the opposition members cower." Then we will all feel so much worse for not being able to go to San Diego, Westminster or wherever the committees were going to be headed this week.

That is not the way it works. It can tend to get opposition members' backs up, I suppose. Those of us who have such equanimity and are basically solid, stable citizens as myself, of course, have no reaction to this kind of thing at all, except that there is a little bit of bewilderment. But here we are dealing with the principle of a bill at a time when committees could be doing something useful and the ministry could be quietly reworking the bill to do something significant.

I want to talk a little bit again about priorities in terms of these facilities. My colleagues have just done the second part of a tour of northern Ontario in terms of these health care facilities. This has been said many times in the House and I do not mean it as something trite to say, but while the south has been blossoming in its economic boom, the north has not done so favourably. The people in the north, I believe, do not really think that the money that comes into the south from the natural resources of the north has been finding its way back into the north in terms of the quality of life they expect for themselves and their families. In this particular case, that is the situation.

Interjection.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I hear the Minister of Natural Resources mumbling about something. It must be about the quality—

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I wasn't mumbling. I said 1,600 jobs is a very good policy.

Mr. R. F. Johnston:—probably the quality of water at the foot of the Humber is what he wants to talk about today. I never did find out, by the way, whether the minister wanted to export the sediment or whether it was just the water he did not want them to get across the way.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps you can ask that question tomorrow in the question period.

1710

Mr. R. F. Johnston: A good point, Mr. Speaker. I will try to get myself on the list at that time. I will go back to talking about the northern health tour and how it fits in with Bill 147, the Independent Health Facilities Act, which is before us now for discussion on second reading.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: That's not the only thing you don't know much about.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It is good to know that the Speaker at least is awake; I am never sure if the Minister of Natural Resources is awake when he interjects. It is very often hard to determine.

When I look at the north and health care and Bill 147, I wonder exactly how this is going to help in those communities. We had people come before our caucus committee up there who told us that in the francophone communities of Dubreuilville and a couple of others there was a huge problem in receiving services in French. I look back to my involvement in this House, going back some 10 years now, and I remember raising the issue of children from northeastern Ontario having to go to Quebec for mental health assistance, to Maison Rouyn in northern Quebec because there were no services in French for them.

While things have improved marginally, it was very disturbing for me to learn that the same kinds of problems face people in northern Ontario today, especially our francophone community, and I should say also our native communities. We take for granted in Metropolitan Toronto the idea that you can go for mental health counselling and probably be able to receive it in as many as 20-some languages, I would imagine, depending on your need, but a person from northern Ontario whose native language is Ojibway, for instance, would very possibly have to have an interpreter present in dealing with a psychotherapist, trying to explain the innermost problems that person has through an interpreter because of a lack of the kinds of basic health care system services we take for granted here in southern Ontario.

Those are exactly the kinds of things that would supposedly be covered by an aggressive elaboration of community health services under a bill like Bill 147. But again, if members look at it and look at the approach that is being taken, there is nothing here that is clear about how that will take place. There is nothing to indicate how we are to provide extra services to northern Ontario; how it would be determined, for instance, that its needs, as identified hopefully by a district health council, would be considered to be as important as those in another, maybe more populous area.

That concept is not in here. Perhaps it is again something in the regulations that the minister or the parliamentary assistant, whenever one of them wishes to be in the House, would like to refer to in replying to my comments today.

I think about the fact that there is not one adolescent service for kids with alcohol problems in all of northern Ontario, something I was

shocked to learn. The chronic care facilities that were promised by this government for both Sault Ste. Marie and Sudbury are not even started yet. They have not even started the building yet, let alone put in place those beds that were promised several years ago by this government. Members can look at the problems with northern health travel, and they are enormous. They can look at the terrible problems in the north of providing home care assistance, and I will come to how that works in southern Ontario and how it links to Bill 147 in a few minutes.

Mr. Haggerty: How do we get the doctors up there?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: There is the huge problem, which the member for Niagara South, who has been here a long time as well—too long some would say but I would never say something like that—has heard spoken of many times, of how you get the doctors to go to northern Ontario and stay there. Is that not a pre-eminent issue that really needs to be addressed?

We have heard continually from the north that unless we place an infrastructure for health care education in the north, in terms of some kind of medical schools or adjuncts to medical schools and that kind of thing, and that if we do not have that infrastructure in place we will not be able to get people up there with just the kind of assistance that has been provided in the past. It is not something we should throw our hands up over; it is something that really needs to be addressed.

I look at Bill 147 and I say to myself, what is there under this act that is going to tell me that we are going to see a major proliferation of nonprofit health care facilities in northern Ontario? If I look at it and look through the requirements, I just do not see anything that tells me that is going to come about.

I wonder if we should perhaps, just for a moment, talk a little bit about competency. It is only appropriate, it seems to me, that we should deal with competency when dealing with this particular ministry, with some of the problems it has brought on itself and with this supposed answer that has been provided to us today. I had hoped the minister would be in her seat for this. No doubt what I am about to say may bring her back.

A number of years ago, those people who were elected before this last election will remember, we had a long and serious debate about the Mental Health Act in Ontario. We had this debate several times, as a matter of fact.

Let me bring members up to the present and my problems with this Minister of Health. The other day, a member from the Conservative Party raised the case of a young schizoid person who had died. The family felt this had taken place because there was less right now under the Mental Health Act to intervene and assist someone who did not wish to be helped than there used to be. It is a poignant case, one that I am sure has parallels, although we have not heard of many; the kind of situation we have worried about for a long time.

You may recall, Mr. Speaker, although you were not in the chair at that time, that the Minister of Health infuriated me by essentially pointing fingers at those of us who had wanted changes in the old act, because of the civil libertarian constraints that were in it, in terms of the way we treated a person who might have had a mental health illness in the past, perhaps had it at that time, in a different way than we would treat somebody who had not had that history. She basically pointed at us and said we were responsible in some way for that death.

That made me extremely angry, not only because it was an unfair deflection of a question of ministerial responsibility that is totally justified under our system, but because it was such a distortion of what has been going on in mental health over the last number of years. For those members who were not elected at that time, I want them to know that this government came forward several times with mental health acts. Basically, what I am suggesting this Minister of Health should do too is withdraw Bill 147 and come back with a new one.

In its first attempt at an act, the government also changed the old law and did not put in a competency section. It was only under major lobbying from mental health professionals that the minority government changed its mind and came back with another form of the bill, which had to be withdrawn because it was inappropriately developed. It had the wrong dates in it, so the government brought forward another one.

In that minority situation, after incredibly long debate, hearing many, many people, it was basically decided by a majority, and it is true many Liberals voted against it, that it was very important we not set up a separate class of people in terms of civil rights, but that what we needed under the act was some kind of definition of competency—that you should not be able to use the fact somebody had a mental health problem at some time against him so that he lost his civil rights and could be put into hospital, put into

restraint, be given psychotropic drugs, perhaps even have himself zapped, because he happened to have a history at one time. He had to be given the same civil rights as the rest of us, and under the Charter of Rights that would be demanded.

What we really needed and what we did not have—what we had at the time was an incredibly arbitrary decision-making process by psychiatrists, an arcane review system—was some definition of when somebody is competent and when somebody is not competent. We need that whether it is for a mental health person in terms of his institutionalization or the kind of program they will put on, the kind of treatment they will get, as well as for somebody who needs trusteeship.

1720

Mr. Speaker, you may know we have now had several groups looking at this issue. Those of us at that time, because there was a group even sitting at that very time looking at this matter, said this must be done with the greatest dispatch because we had heard from, especially, the families of schizophrenics. They said: “You have to understand. It’s one of their symptoms that they’re going to want to deny the fact that there’s anything wrong and they’re going to want to deny treatment.” All the government is doing is creating for the families, who are already terribly burdened, another enormous problem and potential tragedies like the one that was referred to, I think, by the member for Parry Sound (Mr. Eves).

I have been up in this House several times over the last two years since that act was passed, asking the ministry: “When are we going to have that definition of competency? We are putting people at risk unnecessarily.” It was last November that the minister told me that she had a professor, David Weisstub, who was reviewing the matter and that he was going to report back in July 1989 with some options for a definition.

If fingers are to be pointed in individual cases of tragedies like the one the member for Parry Sound raised with us, they should not be pointed at people who knew what the issue was two years ago, who knew how dangerous it was going to be and suggested action had to be taken immediately. Fingers should be pointed at governments that have taken two years to do anything about it, governments that find it acceptable that a professor they have appointed will say he will report nine months later in July 1989, and jeopardize people’s lives in my view—their health, if not so dramatically their lives—up until

that time, and however much longer it takes us to get that into the act, as we all want it to be.

When I look at the issues of mental health care, which may or may not be covered by Bill 147, I ask myself, why does this government want to come forward now with this bill, which it cannot act on, which it knows will have to be revised enormously, just to give me a chance to point out to it what it has been doing around the whole competency question? It is an inane strategy on the government's part. What it is giving us the opportunity to do here, in talking about the principle of this bill, is basically to lay out for the people of Ontario all the areas of failure in health care that Liberals have to their credit now.

Earlier on, I challenged members to come up with any district health council that had ever placed an abortion clinic high on its list of priorities for what was needed in the community. I suggest to the members that not far under that would be a listing of what community mental health facilities would be needed in the community. It is a very difficult issue that is a little frightening to all of us who, I think, understand our own frailties and do not really like to deal with the issues a great deal.

As a solution, as a panacea, as the government's one initiative on health care that it wants us to deal with now so urgently before we leave, it is amazing to me that there is little in this act that you can see that would basically encourage the development of more community-based mental health organizations.

I can see the development of a few more for-profit special facilities perhaps getting some priority, but I look at my own community of Scarborough, which has just a dearth of community-based facilities now, and I ask, "What is there in this that is going to give my community and the local volunteers in my community the chance to make sure their project has priority at the District Health Council of Metropolitan Toronto over fancier kinds of projects that were put forward by independent doctors in the community?" I basically cannot see very much at all.

This bill begs a number of issues and answers none of the questions that are inherent. One wonders why the initiative. The initiative surely must be being taken, in theory, to increase the number of independent health facilities. One would expect that it would want to do this, as a government, in philosophical terms, in policy terms, because the government felt that perhaps there was too much being done in the big

institutions and hospitals and that that this was too expensive a way to deal with it.

That certainly is a concern that the Ontario Hospital Association has highlighted, basically suggesting in its release of November 7 that it wants some assurance from the Ministry of Health that public hospitals will have an equal opportunity under the act to be licensed to establish community-based facilities where the need is demonstrated. They clearly have the sense that they are being shut out of this.

The other option one might expect might be behind this kind of initiative would be this whole question of the fee-for-service, assembly-line-medicine style where you get paid by the number of people you deal with and the kind of procedure it is rather than on the basis of providing a need in general and having that out of a global budget.

If the government were really interested in that prospect, I suggest it would have moved entirely in the nonprofit sector. Then it would have been clear that this was a *modus operandi* they were after. They would have stated very clearly in their announcements that this was not going to be the great underminer of free trade, as we now know it is not going to be, but that it would have been a development on the salary side of things for health care, rather than just this piecework kind of notion of health care that we have at the present time.

This government clearly does not have its mind made up about that. This is a government that has decided doctors are worth a one per cent increase, on what basis I have never really understood. It had somebody mediate the requests and come forward with a suggestion that was between the government's position in bargaining and that of the Ontario Medical Association, and then it ignored that entirely and decided that, for some very arbitrary reason, the one per cent figure was correct for doctors. I have never really understood just what the basis for that was at all.

Mind you, it is a government that also feels members are worth less than Metro councillors, so how am I to explain the vagaries of the Peterson government in terms of what people are worth?

The other thing that might have been was some kind of notion that we needed to move more away from acute care and into preventive care. That would have been something we have all been looking forward to. But if we look at it, as Dorothy Pringle, dean of the faculty of nursing at the University of Toronto, said—she raised rhetorically the question as to whether or not this

would really do it, but she raised the problem—will the nature of services that are going to be put up for proposal to be funded be nonprofit or, in fact, are they going to be high-tech entrepreneurial services? If that is the case, what is going to be the role for home care in all of this? What is going to be the role for some of the other facilities?

1730

I think it is important to understand that this bill is incredibly tight in terms of licensing and the enforcement side of things, but it is incredibly vague in terms of its purposes. Because of that, it is a very dangerous weapon, not just in the area of abortion, as I indicated earlier, but is, in fact, the kind of legislation which gives such a broad-ranging interpretation to any ministry or government that a very right-wing government could interpret it in such a way as to limit community-based organizations. A progressive government, one would hope, would be able to encourage district health councils, the director and others to come forward with more progressive plans.

Given the way this government is going, I suggest that we are not necessarily moving in the latter direction.

Mr. Jackson: It's neither right-wing nor progressive.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: This is a good point from the wounded member for Burlington South, who has lately accessed the system.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I thought Progressive Conservative was an oxymoron.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: There are a number of oxymorons in the House.

Mr. Campbell: Are you an oxy or a moron?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Pardon me, Oxy?

An hon. member: Are you about ready for us?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I am more on than off, but today I am not absolutely sure about that.

I have a short number of other issues I would like to deal with. Perhaps I will go on to them. The question I have thematically, as members know, around this legislation is just why we are being presented with it now and what it is going to do in reality.

The member for Don Mills (Mr. Velshi) will no doubt know that head injuries are a major problem in Ontario. Our trauma care units are incredibly talented now and our investment in those trauma care units has meant that thousands of people who in the past would have died now survive. The estimates that I heard about a year ago, and I am sure they have not changed, were

that there are in this province somewhere around 16,000 serious head injuries per year. Of those 16,000, 4,000 are so serious that those people need a great deal of aftercare and assistance.

Members will perhaps know cases—I do not know if they come through their offices or not—very tragic kinds of cases where the behaviour of the person changes overnight. A large proportion of these serious head injury people develop very violent, erratic behaviour and they become incredible burdens on their families.

We have in this province not bad facilities to deal with a person at the moment of trauma. We have a tiny number of services which are available to a person immediately following the trauma to try to do an assessment of just how serious the long-term damage is. We have virtually nothing in the province at all to help the family and that person through the long-term care assistance, whether it is in the Health area or the Community and Social Services area.

Whereas in the past one might talk about conflicts between these two ministries in terms of competing for the right to deal with various kinds of problems, in this kind of case it is almost as if both ministries do not want to have anything to do with it. The families, the police forces and the jails of the province are becoming the major long-term care givers for these individuals.

I ask the members to think about their own communities and district health councils and I ask them how many proposals they have seen for a follow-up or a rehabilitation program for head-injured, brain-injured people. Virtually none has made it through any health council's priority list.

Given the nature of this bill and its reliance on these health councils—an approach which I remember many Liberals were opposed to developmentally when they were first promoted because of their only quasi-democratic nature—I really worry what happens in the future for those families of brain-injured children and adults, when they will get the community-based services that are required here, because the mechanism requires that the district health council make that a priority before it ever goes to the director, before it ever goes to a minister.

I really wonder whether we will ever see the kind of amplification of programs for those people that is necessary. Instead, we will probably hear the minister getting up, as she did on community health centres today, saying, "We've had a doubling. We have two aftercare homes now in Metro for people who have been

brain-injured. Isn't that spectacular?" rather than any kind of systemic development.

There are a number of other issues I would like to take on. I was not sure if the member for Burlington South wished to be here for his entertainment or to speak.

Mr. Jackson: I am here to applaud and am just waiting for the spot.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: There is never a punch line with anything I do, as he will know. But I know he concurs with almost everything I say except for the attacks on past Tory governments which can be easily excised from the script and used for his own purposes at any point. It is true that when the member for Leeds-Grenville can skirt around to the left of the member for Burlington South, then things are really in turmoil over there at the moment. But I think that kind of ginger taking place is good for the party.

An issue many members will have had some passing involvement with, I am sure, even newer members, is the issue of attendant care, and that falls definitively under this act. The needs are enormous, whether it is for Alzheimer's victims at home, the brain-injured people I have been speaking about or just people at various levels of deterioration, of disability or whatever. At present our system for providing attendant care is a very bizarre mixture of inadequately funded programs and the order-in-council concept. For members of the public, the order in council is essentially getting the cabinet to say that this person is an exception and deserves X dollars because he or she does not fit a particular kind of program that is out there.

In the last seven or eight years I have taken four or five cases of attendant care need to the cabinet. I think one of those was approved. There are very seldom more than a dozen or so approved in a given year. I do not know what the numbers will be this year. But what we have is no real infrastructure for dealing with the questions of attendant care.

Again, on the same theme, I would come back to the minister and ask: Is it going to mean under this legislation that more attendant care programs, in any kind of co-ordinated fashion, will emerge across Ontario? What is there to guarantee that any of these will necessarily be nonprofit? What is the governmental policy role that will make sure that somewhere in this process health councils are instructed that this is to be a priority? Or is that not the role that will be taken; will it be a hands-off kind of role by government?

I have not heard from the minister at all in what she said about this in the past that there is any kind of notion of focusing on some of these issue problems. Instead what we have is this sort of mask being put forward that this is some sort of solution, that this somehow changes the world. It may not change it one jot; I think that is totally inappropriate.

I do not see anything here that says this government has come to grips with the ballooning number of senior citizens in the province and the huge number of services which will be required in services for the frail elderly, etc. If you look at the kind of failure in bringing in co-ordinated homecare services, you would just have to say this government is moving very slowly.

1740

We look at the kind of home care that is available and the kind of nursing care that is provided out there at the moment and we see the development of Para-Med and other multinational corporations based in the United States that are now providing nursing care.

The old tried-and-true nonprofit groups like the Victorian Order of Nurses and the Red Cross are losing battles with these kinds of organizations, which pay a pittance to the nurses as well as taking their own fee out of it and making a fairly sizeable profit which then finds its way south of the border.

I wonder, in looking at this act, which says nothing about how a nonprofit organization like the Red Cross would get priority, what would be the mechanism for giving it priority, that perhaps it is all left up to the enormous powers of regulation. I really worry about that.

The member for Parry Sound raised an incredibly serious issue, in my view one that we deal with every time we deal with health or social services issues. I remember in the Child and Family Services Act of a few years ago we talked about it a great deal; it is the question of confidentiality.

When I look at the hard-nosed wording of the second half of this bill, it seems to me that what we have here is an almost draconian approach to moving in on organizations and looking at their records.

Interjection.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: For purposes of Hansard, the minister says, "Read the Nursing Homes Act." I have read the Nursing Homes Act and have some difficulties with some of the concepts of it, as well as understanding, from my perspective, the differences that we would

hopefully have between certain kinds of organizations and others.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Read the Public Hospitals Act.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The minister again wishes to necessarily place her powers in the Public Hospitals Act and others as symbols of things that we should be wanting in society. Perhaps they are and perhaps they are not. All I am saying is that my reading of this legislation is that the minister has very strong powers for moving in and I—

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Quality insurance.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Pardon me? Quality insurance? Perhaps quality insurance, but let me put you again in the position of actually maybe getting the Morgentaler Clinic approved and having a change of minister so that the government has a minister in charge of it who does not think about access to abortion as this one does. Look at those powers in that light and see if the minister really wants that kind of invasion and that kind of potential harassment taking place that I see as possible under this act. I think it is something we really have to be concerned about.

The minister may think this is an area which is easily handled. I would just suggest to her that the kind of editorials that were alluded to by the member for Parry Sound are ones that she is going to see more of, and real concerns about that kind of activity.

If half the thought had gone into the first part of this bill as has gone into the second part, perhaps we would have a much tighter bill, maybe not one I would necessarily agree with, but I would understand where the minister was coming from. I have no concept, at this stage, of where she is going on anything but enforcement.

There is nothing in here, as I have been enumerating, which tells me the minister is dealing with the kinds of issues I think need to be dealt with. The minister and the government are afraid of dealing with the whole question of concentration of doctors and the numbers of doctors. We have seen that ducked any number of times in terms of trying to get some sort of balance over what the government's role is in health care planning and what the role is of the professionals in the field.

I see nothing in this act which makes me feel any better about the enormous problem which was first pointed out in this province by the member for High Park in those days, Dr. Morton Shulman, to do with the private laboratories and the enormous profits which were being made in that sector in Ontario and what kind of controls

there were going to be by this government in those areas.

I think what we have here is a government trying to recoup some ground in the last weeks of the Legislature; a government wrongly deciding, strategically, that it would be far better off to have us in session pointing out the problems that it has. Perhaps a few of the backbenchers—who knows, maybe on this bill or a couple of others—will actually be getting up and saying something instead of sitting back and not being able to participate. At the same time, they are being told they cannot participate in committees because they are now going to be able to stay here and listen to us debate the Minister of Health's bill until we have all had our shot at it, because that is somehow important to her; it would be better for them to be here, unable to say anything except to heckle from time to time, rather than doing good, important legislative work on committees, because the Minister of Health feels it is important to her ego or whatever that we deal with this bill in second reading at this point.

I think it is a fundamental mistake for the Liberals to do that. I hear the Treasurer even wants to bring forward the lottery bill now and try to put us in our place and basically say, "Where do you stand on lottery money going to health care?" I say to the Treasurer and to the government, let's have the debate. I welcome that debate, again on the same basis of, why is it being proffered? Why is the government and the party that once was very worried about lotteries all of a sudden turning to them as their salvation? Is it because of incompetence? Is it because, even under the general revenue powers the government has, it does not know how to control health care spending; where it really wants to put its emphasis; where it really wants to put its money? Is that what the Liberals really want to talk about? Is it the fact that somehow they have accumulated an \$800-million surplus and have been unable to find out where to put the money? That is what I hear. I may be wrong.

That is where this government wants us to have the debate: in terms of its failure to plan the economics of the health care system. The government has not been able to work out what it wants to do in terms of the hospitals and the health care system. It still has no plan for dealing with the nursing shortage.

I just learned from a friend who is in having his bypass operation that two new nurses from Great Britain have just come on to his floor, attracted here recently because of our problems in getting nurses in this province. Is that where we are

going again, to the importation of nurses? I hear that is what we are going to do with educators.

I welcome the debate, if that is what the government wants us to do by bringing forward this bill at this time. If that kind of inane strategy is what the Liberals think is appropriate for the House rather than having members do serious work, then there are members other than I who are willing to get up and speak, more coherently and for longer than I am able to, in terms of what is wrong with the Liberals' health care planning system at the moment.

There are members here who have had a great deal of experience in terms of the home care issue. I think the member for Hamilton West (Mr. Allen) will want to get up and talk about the failure of this government to deal with that issue and how Bill 147 is merely a mask for that.

It is a curious business we are in. Ego and policy somehow wrap themselves together and sometimes get so inextricably wrapped up that we end up doing things that make little sense. This House spends a lot of time on issues that could easily be debated at another time.

I encourage this government to rethink Bill 147. This party, the New Democratic Party, is very supportive of the notion of expansion of community health. We want the government to come back with a bill which explicitly does that; which explicitly comes forward and says it is supporting the development of the nonprofit sector; which explicitly will be saying that it is not going to leave it up to the political courage of local health councils as to whether or not community-based services for women wanting abortions should be funded in the province of Ontario, but that this government will make the decision that those kinds of services should be provided in all the communities of Ontario and that they are better provided in health centres than in hospitals, to have the courage to make that kind of policy statement.

We want to hear the government say that these kinds of centres are not designed to give doctors access to more government funding to undertake high-technology alternatives, but rather are designed to deal with some of the very serious problems we know are out there that are best dealt with under the control of community boards, whether they are attendant care programs, whether they are programs for the head injured, whether they are programs for senior citizens who are frail and in their homes and in need of nursing care or whether there are needs for chronic care in a community; it is the kind of

thing which I think the minister can be clear about.

1750

Clearly, I want to see her withdraw this bill at this time. I think it is nonsensical to have it before us. In the fresh new session coming up, if she comes forward with a bill which has the clarity that we are asking for, then she will no doubt get the support of this party in terms of that legislation as she brings it forward.

But at this stage, to tell us a week ago that she thought the things we would be dealing with in committee are no longer important—whether they were in the select committee on education or whether they were matters that might be looked at by other committees—that somehow her priority is this flawed legislation, which can go nowhere for months and months, and that no committee has the power or the membership to take it on at this time, then I say that is a slap in the face not just to opposition members but to members of all those committees who are Liberals.

I have looked at the member for Northumberland (Mrs. Fawcett), who has recently spoken twice in the House, and I commend her for that. It was pleasant to see her up and at it. She has little opportunity to use this forum, not just because members of the Liberal Party are muzzled when it comes to second reading debate, but because there are a lot of them vying for question period and it is very difficult to get on. The most effective place for them to be, when they are not cutting ribbons in their own home constituency or my constituency, would be in committee doing some useful work.

I know there are members like the member for Kenora (Mr. Micalash), who wanted very much to be involved in the select committee. He has probably done a great deal of homework already to prepare himself for questions on the length of the schoolday and the length of the school year and perhaps the length of my speeches, which he needed before we went on.

Mr. Smith: We'd have more time if you'd quit, Richard.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Again, the member for Lambton raises a very good point; that is that if the committee, of course, had gone on its way and had studied this issue this week, there would have been more time for all members to be doing other things, rather than sitting here holding a quorum as I hold forth on my views about the failings of Bill 147.

But that was not my choice. That was the choice of the Minister of Health and the Premier,

who walked into the caucus meeting and told the Liberal members that this was the way it was going to be and they were all going to love it and be loyal. I know the member for Sudbury (Mr. Campbell) smiled at the time. It was a weak kind of sheepish smile because he is that kind of guy, unlike his mother, who never had that kind of sheepish smile in this House but always had one of glaring opposition. She allowed her real views to be known.

What we have been called on to deal with is Bill 147. In the six minutes I have left I want to remind members that in the last few minutes that I have been speaking, since I have been on my feet, they probably have had a chance now to read this bill seven or eight times and I hope they have done that. In looking at it, we have looked at certain matters such as the questions of the regulations. I ask all members to turn with me now to page 21 of the bill and to look at the powers that are vested in—

Miss Roberts: As in a hymnbook.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: We could do these, as the member for—oh my, what a challenge this is to get all these ridings correct.

Miss Roberts: Elgin.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: As the member for Elgin has pointedly said, we could do this by recital. I could do the first, she could respond à la the church service with the second and then we could proceed along. There are 29 regulations or permissive subelements of subsection 33(1), which deal with the powers of regulation that the minister has. I suggest if members look at those powers, they are enormous and at this stage we have no idea what they are.

It is not unusual with an important piece of legislation—this is the important piece of health legislation for this government because it is being brought forward so urgently at this time, having only been debated one other time in this House since it was first introduced last June—that when that kind of legislation comes forward, sometimes an organized, competent government provides a compendium which includes the potential regulations so we have an idea, when huge powers are vested in regulation, what is being given there, just what that power really means.

Sometimes they are not available when a bill is tabled. I presume last June, given how hurriedly the first part of this bill obviously was brought in and how it was brought forward as an anti-free-trade bill, as we will all recall, they did not have time to think through the regulations.

At this stage, I would suggest to members, all those regulations should be available to us; we should be able to see them and know for ourselves whether the kinds of powers of regulation that are being placed here are appropriate or whether in fact they place too much power in the hands of both the minister and the director as outlined in this proposed law. I would suggest that they are too great and that we deserve to get that information before this debate takes place.

This government does not wish to go forward with this legislation, I am convinced. There is no great fondness for it, outside of the Minister of Health and perhaps her deputy, who is feeling a bit under fire these days. This is not a bill which speaks to a new philosophy, which talks about a new—

Mr. Offer: That's not what the member said at the beginning.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Pardon me?

Mr. Offer: You said at the beginning, "Why are you going through with this legislation?" Send this man his Instant Hansard.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I know that the member from Mississauga with the hearing impairment will basically want to reread the Hansard himself and understand that what I have talked about is the government's motivations in bringing this forward. He may remember the image of the doily on the cesspool. I commend it to him as appropriate for this particular piece of legislation.

Having now enumerated some of the problems in the health care system, I will go on, no doubt at the next sitting, with a few of the others that are extant at the moment and why the ministry would not want to come forward with this at this time. There is no love for this particular bill out there in the community. Did I hear a nodding from the minister?

Mr. Offer: You can't hear a nodding.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: If you can hear nodding, you're in good shape.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I hope the member got that. Did the member for Elgin get that? I would like to say to the member for Mississauga East that in certain cases you certainly can hear a nodding in this House, and the rattle has been one that I have noted in the past.

Mr. Offer: He's missed the riding twice.

Mr. Carrothers: Which riding is it? North, south, east or west?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Well, let's go for Mississauga North next time and hope we get it.

All I know is that the member from Mississauga wherever—

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Charlton) is looking pained even as you speak.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The member for Hamilton Mountain is the ultimate loyalist, I want members to know.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The only loyalist.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: And the only loyalist. The minister notes that again today there is no one else in the caucus here to support me, but this is not something which has surprised me over the years. I am quite used to being the lone voice and will be happy to be the lone voice when next we meet to go back on to Bill 147 and talk about a few of the things I have missed in my lack of time today, to be able to enumerate the difficulties there.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: And as you conclude second reading debate and we move forward to committee.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I was going to say that my hope is that this minister will determine that when we come back, having left the Legislature at the end of this week, one hopes, we will instead come forward with a new bill which will be a little clearer and more precise in terms of what it is trying to do and not merely put forward vagaries which can be much misused by government, with too high an amount of power within the regulations section.

I am now going to turn to some of the comments about the bill which the Ontario Medical Association has made and will proceed on some of its comments when next we meet. I know the minister will want to assure the government House leader, since he has been trodden on again by the Premier in terms of the ordering of the business of this House, that we should be able to get together again on Bill 147 at the earliest opportunity.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Tomorrow.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Perhaps we can do it as we have been doing: wait another three months or four months to call it. After all, it was very important on November 7 and became surprisingly unimportant for the months that have passed until now, except in the mind of the Premier and, I gather, of the Minister of Health. But we will have our chance to discuss many more items under this act at this point.

Several members from the rump—or two; it is always hard to tell, there is not as much noise as normal, and that is how I judge—have suggested to me that the clock is indicating it is about six o'clock, so I think it probably would be appropriate for me to adjourn the debate before I get into the meat and substance of my remarks.

On motion by Mr. R. F. Johnston, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ORDERS AND NOTICES

ANNUAL REPORTS

69. Mr. Philip: Would each minister inform the House of the following: (1) the cost of the annual report for the last three fiscal years, (2) the breakdown of the component costs of the annual report such as design, layout and printing, (3) the cost of work contracted out and work done by ministry staff, (4) the number of copies printed, (5) a list of all outside contracts, (6) which contracts were tendered and supply a detailed description of the tendering process and (7) in the case of any contract not tendered the reasons for not tendering? [Tabled December 10, 1987]

See sessional paper 497.

SUPPORT PAYMENTS

425. Mr. Hampton: Would the Attorney General inform the House as to the amount of the smallest maintenance order being enforced by the support and custody enforcement office between July 1, 1987, and December 31, 1988? [Tabled January 4, 1989]

Hon. Mr. Scott: The smallest maintenance order that was enforced by the support and custody enforcement office between July 1, 1987, and December 31, 1988, was \$1.

426. Mr. Hampton: Would the Attorney General inform the House as to the amount of the largest maintenance order being enforced by the support and custody enforcement office between July 1, 1987, and December 31, 1988? [Tabled January 4, 1989]

Hon. Mr. Scott: The largest maintenance order being enforced by the support and custody enforcement office as of December 31, 1988, was \$222,239.

427. Mr. Hampton: Would the Attorney General inform the House as to the average amount of maintenance orders being enforced by the support and custody enforcement office between July 1, 1987, and December 31, 1988? [Tabled January 4, 1989]

Hon. Mr. Scott: The average amount of maintenance orders being enforced by the support and custody enforcement office as of December 31, 1988, was \$3,640 per year.

428. Mr. Hampton: Would the Attorney General inform the House as to the average administrative cost of enforcement of each maintenance order being enforced by the support and custody enforcement office per month

between July 1, 1987, and December 31, 1988? [Tabled January 4, 1989]

Hon. Mr. Scott: The Ministry of the Attorney General does not maintain statistics that indicate the average administrative costs for each maintenance order being enforced. The average monthly administrative cost of enforcing the 46,714 maintenance orders on file in the support and custody enforcement office as of December 31, 1988, was \$24.50 per month.

FRENCH-LANGUAGE HEALTH SERVICES

429. Mr. Runciman: Will the Minister of Health please advise the House why, in recent advertisements for a personnel officer for the Brockville Psychiatric Hospital, the ministry is requiring candidates to be bilingual? [Tabled January 5, 1989]

430. Mr. Runciman: Will the Minister of Health advise the House why, in a recent advertisement for a personnel officer for the Brockville Psychiatric Hospital, applicants are asked to possess excellent English written and oral skills and superior French written and oral skills? Would the minister also advise why candidates are asked to have better French-language skills than English? Would the minister agree that this requirement effectively weights the job opportunity in favour of candidates whose first language is French? [Tabled January 5, 1989]

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The personnel office at Brockville, although located within the psychiatric hospital, is organizationally part of the regional personnel structure of the ministry's human resources branch. In addition to providing personnel services to the hospital, other Ministry of Health staff located throughout eastern Ontario are supported where a variety of French-language health services are provided under the French Language Services Act, 1986.

The personnel officer in this particular position designated under the act must possess high-level communication skills in both French and English. The successful candidate will be required to carry out the full range of human resources management responsibilities, including the assessment of the French-language skills of applicants for Ministry of Health positions which have been designated under the act.

Since the Ontario public service French-language standards are set at four levels—

elementary, intermediate, advanced and superior—it is deemed appropriate to specify “superior skills” as a qualification requirement for this vacancy calling for full fluency in French by the personnel officer.

The criteria do not favour candidates whose first language is French but require that they have “superior skills” to carry out the full range of human resources management responsibilities in both languages.

RESPONSES TO PETITIONS

TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION

Sessional paper P-22, re teachers' superannuation.

Hon. Mr. Ward: The issue of providing a pension based on “best five” years' service retroactively to those who have already retired must be viewed in the context of the overall financial situation of the teachers' pension plan. It should be noted that when this issue was referred to the Public Sector Pensions Advisory Board in 1986, the board reviewed the matter and recommended against this change.

More recently, the Slater report on teachers' and public service pensions has concluded that under the best possible circumstances, current contributions and investment income are insufficient to provide the current level of pension indexation. Further, the report found that this situation has occurred for benefits that arose from past service, and if nothing is done, will occur in respect of future service. These findings are consistent with earlier reports by Laurence Coward and Malcolm Rowan. Indeed, the Coward report measured the unfunded liability with respect to teachers' indexation benefits at almost \$7 billion.

The government sees the matter of unfunded liability as requiring urgent disposition and is committed to finding a resolution that is fiscally prudent and fair to current contributors and future taxpayers. At the same time, the government has indicated its willingness to pursue real reform in the pension arrangements.

To this end, a working group on teachers' pensions has been established which includes representatives of the Ontario Teachers' Federation. The “best five” matter is among the issues being discussed by the working group. The working group has been instructed to present recommendations as to how to proceed in the near future so that the implementation arrangements to resolve the funding situation can be included in the next provincial budget.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Sessional paper P-29, re workers' compensation.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Bill 162 will provide fairer compensation for workers who suffer from permanent disability as a result of a work-related injury or illness. In addition, the bill makes provision for a new award to recognize the long-term noneconomic consequences of a workplace injury.

The bill responds to the recommendations of the task force report on Workers' Compensation Board vocational rehabilitation services by emphasizing the important objective of assisting injured workers' return to work. It does so by placing an obligation on the Workers' Compensation Board to provide needed vocational rehabilitation services on the basis of early intervention. The bill will ensure that injured workers play an active role in the design of their vocational rehabilitation program.

Bill 162 also places an obligation upon employers to re-employ injured workers upon their recovery, and it authorizes the Workers' Compensation Board to levy penalties against those employers who fail to live up to this obligation.

The bill also places an obligation upon employers to maintain contributions and thus the coverage of an injured worker's health care, life insurance and pension benefit programs.

The bill raises the wage coverage ceiling from the current \$35,100 to 175 per cent of the average industrial wage, estimated to be currently \$44,000.

Accordingly, the government of Ontario intends to proceed with this legislation to transform the workers' compensation system into one which is much fairer and more effective.

CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY

Sessional paper P-33, re Church of Scientology.

Hon. Mr. Scott: The abovenoted petition requests that the outstanding charges against the Church of Scientology of Toronto be withdrawn.

The preamble to the petition contains several errors which should be noted:

1. “An entire church” is not charged with a criminal offence. The accused is the corporation Church of Scientology of Toronto;

2. The alleged offences did not occur over a decade ago. The charges of possession of stolen property span a time period ending March 3, 1983.

As I have noted in responding to other correspondence pertaining to this case, the Court of Appeal for Ontario has held that those who commit secular crimes are not immune from prosecution merely because the crimes are committed to further the objects of a religious organization. This principle is equally applicable to individuals and corporations.

Any further comment regarding the Scientology case would not be advisable as the case is presently before the courts and is subject to a ban on publication of the evidence.

HOME CARE

Sessional paper P-39, re Red Cross.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: On December 2, 1988, I met with the Red Cross, at which time the issue of their \$1.1-million deficit was raised. On January 6, 1989, the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) announced that the government will cover the \$1.8 million in deficits incurred by homemaker programs of the Red Cross and six other not-for-profit organizations across Ontario. In addition, the government has agreed to fund verifiable deficits incurred by these programs next year.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

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- Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
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 Breaugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)
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 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)
Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)
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 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
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Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)
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 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)
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 McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)
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 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)
McLeod, Hon. Lyn, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)
 Miclash, Frank (Kenora L)

Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)
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 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)
Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier,
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 nomics and Minister of Financial Institutions
 (Brant-Haldimand L)
Oddie Munro, Hon. Lily, Minister of Culture
 and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)
O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and
 Recreation (Quinte L)
 O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)
 Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)
Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government
 Services (Ottawa Centre L)
 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)
Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and Presi-
 dent of the Council and Minister of Inter-
 governmental Affairs (London Centre L)
 Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)
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 (Scarborough-Agincourt L)
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 Rae, Bob (York South NDP)
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 Reycraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)

Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and
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 Roberts, Marietta L. D. (Elgin L)
 Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)
 Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)
Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General
 (St. George-St. David L)
 Smith, David W. (Lambton L)
Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General
 (London South L)
 Sola, John (Mississauga East L)
Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour
 (York Centre L)
 South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)
 Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)
 Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)
 Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)
Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community
 and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
 Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)
 Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)
 Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glen-
 garry PC)
Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of
 Education (Wentworth North L)
 Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)
Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio
 (Dufferin-Peel L)
 Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)
Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy
 (Fort York L)
Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and
 Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)

*The alphabetical list of members appears in
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No. 146

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



First Session, 34th Parliament

Tuesday, February 14, 1989

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer

Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, February 14, 1989

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

LIQUOR BOARD AGENCY STORES

Mr. Farnan: I wish to draw to the attention of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Wrye) some concerns with regard to the Liquor Control Board of Ontario's agency store policy. The purpose of an agency store should be to provide a service for persons in specific communities who would not otherwise have reasonable access to an LCBO outlet to purchase alcohol. Certainly it should not be a means for helping established merchants become rich.

In 1985, for example, the agency store in White River sold over \$500,000 in liquor, and this is a store that coexists with an LCBO outlet. Existing policies state that agency stores must be a minimum of 25 miles or, in some cases, 35 miles from the nearest outlet. This criterion, however, has been constantly ignored and in several towns there are coexisting government stores and agency stores.

Several questions arise: (1) What guarantee is there that the LCBO will not issue agency licences without discretion in the future? (2) Will the spread of agency stores force the closure of government-operated, low-volume D stores? (3) Will for-profit owners demonstrate the same degree of vigilance in turning away customers who are unfit to purchase alcohol? (4) Will agency stores be established in areas which have supported or could support a government store?

The employees at LCBO outlets have some very justifiable concerns and the minister must ensure that agency stores remain what they were intended to be. Their growth should not be at the expense of current LCBO outlets.

CURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. McLean: My statement concerns a group of Penetanguishene area residents who continue to prove that they certainly are masters of the ice. Skip Russ Howard and his curling teammates, vice-skip Glen Howard, second Tim Belcourt, lead Kent Carstairs and spare Larry Merkley,

won their third Ontario provincial men's curling championship in four years this past weekend.

This was a particularly sweet victory for the Howard team, because three out of the four members had to play through a variety of ailments ranging from lost voices to bouts with the flu bug. However, they overcame their ailments to score an eight-to-five victory over the Ed Werenich team and win the 1989 Blue Light Tankard at Community Gardens in Trenton, Ontario.

While I am extremely pleased with the success of the Howard team, I should note that I am not so pleased with Canada's two national television networks, the CBC and the CTV, which failed to devote any live coverage to this tankard. You could watch golf or skiing from the United States or figure-skating from Chicoutimi, Quebec, but nowhere could you find any coverage of the 1989 Blue Light Tankard. To me, this is a slap in the face to all curlers in Ontario and their fans.

At any rate, I would like to extend sincere congratulations on behalf of all of us to the Russ Howard team and wish it continued success when it represents Ontario in the Brier from March 5 to 12 in Saskatoon.

ANNIVERSARY OF STRATHROY MIDDLESEX GENERAL HOSPITAL

Mr. Reyecraft: "Seventy-five years of heart-felt caring." Starting just about now, that is what they are going to be celebrating for the rest of this week in Strathroy. On February 14, 1914, 75 years ago today, Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital first opened its doors. Since that Valentine's Day in 1914, the hospital has evolved to become a first-class health care facility serving the medical needs of the people in Strathroy and west Middlesex.

The history of this hospital represents an interesting metamorphosis. The original hospital was a renovated residence donated to the town. It opened with 20 beds and a staff of five. The present hospital was constructed in two stages, in 1962 and 1975, and today it operates as a 121-bed facility offering a wide range of services. The metamorphosis is not yet complete. A \$3-million project, for which this government has committed \$2 million, to im-

prove ambulatory and outpatient areas is in the planning stage.

Having just had an opportunity to be a patient in Strathroy Middlesex General for a week, I can personally attest to the splendid care its staff provides to the people of Middlesex.

As they get ready to cut the birthday cake in the auditorium this afternoon, I want to add my congratulations and best wishes to the chairperson, Joan Gentleman, and the other members of the board of governors, to executive director Tom Enright, and to the more than 300 members of the administration and staff.

GRAY COACH LINES LTD.

Mr. Mackenzie: On March 5, Gray Coach Lines, wholly owned by the Toronto Transit Commission, is to abandon its Owen Sound-to-Barrie and Kitchener-to-London routes.

For many years, Gray Coach Lines has provided quality service for the travel requirements of residents in many towns and villages in Ontario. Gray Coach currently services many Ontario communities. There is a very real fear that the abandonment of these two routes is only the beginning of an end to many of the less-profitable routes. The quality of service and the scheduling and connections that will be provided by smaller local bus lines will not necessarily benefit the residents.

A large number of well-trained and decently paid drivers and other employees will be replaced by much-lower-paid employees. The ability of profitable routes to subsidize less-profitable routes to provide good service will be lost. There is a serious question here as to whether such rationalization, such contracting out in the sole name of increased profits is in the public interest.

The mandate of Gray Coach Lines, conferred upon it many years ago, was to create order out of the chaos which was once the interurban transit scene in Ontario. They got exclusive rights over profitable routes with an obligation to provide quality service to less-profitable or even money-losing routes. Why should they now be allowed to walk away from this obligation? Is this really in the public interest in Ontario?

INTERVAL AND TRANSITION HOUSES

Mr. Jackson: Last week, the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) announced a review of security at custody centres for young offenders. He made this announcement in response to the deaths of five escapees in a Highway 401 car crash and the tragic murder of Krista Sepp.

Security at centres for young offenders is being reviewed only because of the Sepp murder, this tragic, needless death. It is unfortunate that the government has not responded in the same manner to senseless attacks on women at shelters for abused women.

The Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses wants the government to ensure that there are always two staff members at shelters for victims of spouse abuse. Already two transition home workers have been savagely attacked by violent men who came looking for their spouses. In one incident in eastern Ontario a shelter worker was sexually assaulted.

This is over and above the number of clients who are assaulted, sometimes killed, after seeking refuge in a transition home, simply because the staff there cannot provide the necessary protection. We all remember the tragic case of the Kenora woman murdered when her husband, armed with a gun, entered the shelter where she was staying.

Double-staffing is essential, but some regions cry out for special assistance. In parts of northern Ontario, there is no Ontario Provincial Police officer on duty from midnight until morning. It is frightening enough for a shelter staff person to work the night shift while her police protectors are home in bed; the least this government can allow her is the support and assistance of a second staff member.

I say to the minister that he should, by all means, inquire into security of facilities for young offenders, but he should not forget the real and serious problems faced by interval and transition homes across this province.

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GEOGRAPHY EDUCATION

Mr. Adams: Recent surveys in North America show that vast numbers of people cannot find their own country on a map. Still more people cannot locate major cities or other features of their country. In the United States, only one in four could locate the Pacific Ocean, which occupies one third of the globe. Less than half knew where Japan is, although most could identify Japanese products.

Today, when people and lands are closer together than ever before, when events at one location impact rapidly on the rest of the world, when it is vitally important that the peoples of the world should know each other and should know about their planet, this ignorance of basic geography is inexcusable and dangerous.

We must emphasize geography at all levels in our education system. In 1987, Louis Branscombe said "that it will be recognized that modern geography is an integrated view of humans on this planet, the bringing together of ecology, the study of human habitats, geomorphology, social anthropology and economics; in short, all the tools necessary to understand how human beings should view their fragile planetary home."

Let's prepare our young people properly by giving them a fairer measure of real geography in their education.

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Mr. Hampton: Yesterday, the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board announced Ontario auto insurance rates for 1989. The board tried hard to tell consumers of the province that the rate increase would be 7.6 per cent. Consumers, the media, and most of all the insurance industry, know that it is not so.

Jack Lyndon, of the Insurance Bureau of Canada, said companies will raise rates 17 per cent. The chief executive officer of Wellington Insurance said, "I think most companies will have to go to the top," a 17 per cent increase. When we read the fine print, we see that young female drivers, male drivers in the age-30 category and older drivers will all face increases in excess of 20 per cent.

So this is what the Liberal government meant when it said it had a plan to reduce auto insurance rates. Let us see another plan.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Mr. Mackenzie: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I want to correct the record. In asking questions yesterday of the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara) about the situation of female employees of the Canadian General Electric lamp plant, I said that they were suffering from lung cancer. In fact, it was breast cancer that was the problem they were suffering from.

Mr. Speaker: That is a point of personal explanation. Thank you.

ORAL QUESTIONS

Mr. B. Rae: I might ask the acting government House leader, or whatever he is—Deputy Premier, master of many trades—whether the Minister of Energy (Mr. Wong) is going to be here, because I will have some questions for the Minister of Energy. In his absence, I will ask the Deputy Premier, which will make for an entertaining series of results.

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Mr. B. Rae: Before the Minister of Energy gets here, I want to just put my questions to the Minister of Financial Institutions, if I may.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I can read.

Mr. B. Rae: I just want to make sure the minister can read this sign from there.

I am sure the Minister of Financial Institutions will recall the statement that was made by his leader in the last election campaign in which he said that he had a very specific plan to lower insurance rates. This is a squib from the Toronto Star of September 8, 1987. I know the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) would like to be able to read that clearly as well.

Mr. Speaker: The question would be?

Mr. B. Rae: The Treasurer is squinting a bit, but I can tell him what it reads. It says, "We have a very specific plan to lower insurance rates."

Now that many spokesmen for the insurance industry have made it clear that they are going to be looking at rate increases of the upper limit, which I would remind the minister is 17.3 per cent, the rate increase that has been allowed by the board without any applications to the board at all, I wonder if the minister can tell us how a 17.3 per cent increase from an individual company and from countless companies across the board in Ontario in any way, shape, manner or form complies with the promise that the Premier (Mr. Peterson) made in September 1987 that the Liberals had a very specific plan to lower insurance rates.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The honourable gentleman raises a question again about auto insurance rates, and it is a very timely and important question for all of us, but I have to tell the honourable gentleman that what we have been doing with the auto insurance industry is assessing overall what components go into the structure of rates and what sort of activities we have to take to ensure that there are fair and reasonable rates in place for the consumer here in Ontario.

We have done that under the auspices of the board, and it has quite clearly set out the elements which go into the restructuring of the industry so that we can get rid of the discrimination which has occurred to this point. It has talked to us about what changes have to be made in the classification plans to accomplish that, plus it has indicated quite clearly what has to be done in order to come up with a reasonable but not inappropriate increase, which was indicated at 7.6 per cent as a benchmark.

We will be looking over the next 30 days at what in fact the insurance industry does when it files for its rates with the board. The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. B. Rae) is quite clearly correct when he says they may go up that nine per cent. They may also go down by 20 per cent from the benchmark, so I can tell the honourable gentleman that there are opportunities for—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. B. Rae: The minister says there are opportunities for lowering rates. Under a free enterprise system, I would have thought he would always have the opportunity for lowering rates. The only problem is that is not what has happened to drivers. Drivers have faced a continued increase, an escalation of increases that has taken place over the last five years.

The minister himself said he was going to cap rates. He allowed a nine per cent increase. He said he was going to lower rates, and now he says he has got a benchmark figure. That is good for benches and good for nobody else, because it does not apply to anybody else. It might apply to park benches, but it does not apply to drivers.

Mr. Speaker: The question?

Mr. B. Rae: I wonder if the minister can tell us, if his system is designed to comply with the promise that was made by his leader in September 1987, a very specific plan to lower insurance rates, if that is the case, why is it that yesterday the insurance companies greeted the increase saying they could live with it, they could handle it, because in their view it allowed them to increase rates over 17 per cent? How does the minister—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Order. The question has been asked.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The honourable gentleman asks if there have been any situations in which there are decreases. If he were putting the full story in front of the people of the province, he would be quite clearly correct when he said that there are a number of young male drivers and others in the system who will in fact find that there will be decreases in their insurance rates.

As we analyse what is happening with respect to this rate announcement yesterday by the board, we will find out that in areas like Ottawa and Windsor there will be some decreases and that in the rural areas there will be decreases for people. We will find in areas of Metropolitan Toronto there will be decreases for the young driver.

We know that the fairness inherent in the announcement that was made yesterday was that those people who have convictions for speeding, either major or otherwise, and those people who have made claims on their insurance coverage will be required to pay. There is a fairness and a rational sense that has been introduced into this industry in terms of setting the rates that we have to this point not had the opportunity to find.

I can tell the honourable gentleman that there will be decreases in the system, as he suggests.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Perhaps the members—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Perhaps the members would allow—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Kormos: Yesterday the minister talked about telling the entire story and he talked about reductions young male drivers might enjoy. He neglected to mention that the rate will still be in excess of \$2,000 here in the city of Toronto. That is on a modest car; that is the best possible rate.

He also neglected to mention that even his auto insurance board noted, and I am quoting from its fourth report, "It is important to note that insurers still have the right to decline...a risk." His board similarly noted, "Insurers have become more selective about the persons they insure." He talked about the reduction in rates and failed to mention that there was still in excess of \$2,000. He failed to mention—

1350

Mr. Speaker: Order. Is your question: did the minister fail to mention? No? Do you have a question?

Mr. Kormos: He failed to mention that insurers can still be selective. What is he going to do to ensure that the young driver he speaks of, whose rates have been set, can get insurance without being turned away by insurers? He has guaranteed profits but has not guaranteed insurance to that driver.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The honourable gentleman, the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Kormos), is not expressing what in fact is the state of affairs. There is no guarantee of profit in this rate. He knows that. He is trying to be cute by saying there is a guarantee, because there is not. The requirement is for the insurance companies to look at the way they manage their business and to be very careful about how they do their business, because they have to retain their market

share. They have to be in the marketplace in a competitive way to hold their share.

I can tell the honourable gentleman that in fact there is still a high premium to be paid. What he has done with respect to the high premiums being paid by young people is to underscore what is in fact taking place. People who have heretofore paid very low rates will get some increases. People with large payments, for example, on table 15 I guess it is—I am not exactly sure of the number—the 17-year-old driver from Timmins who has been paying \$4,000, will decline with their premiums on an average basis to just over \$2,000. That is a considerable decrease for that person.

In telling the full story, likewise there are situations where there is limited experience of driving and situations where there are convictions where people will be paying more. Under this system of rate-setting people will be able to earn lower premiums as they have more experience. We can see that the cutoff here is established at about the sixth year.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Thank you. We have already taken 10 minutes for the first round.

TRITIUM

Mr. B. Rae: This is to the Minister of Energy. I am sure the minister has seen, as we all have, the cabinet submission, proposal and recommendation dated December 28, 1988, on the export of tritium, which was made available at a press conference this morning. This document to cabinet recommends that Ontario Hydro be permitted to export tritium, that this be the policy of the cabinet, and that Ontario Hydro work with the Ministry of Energy to develop a communications strategy and plan for the announcement of this policy.

I wonder if the minister can tell us, has the cabinet considered this document and has the cabinet reached any conclusion on the question of the export of tritium?

Hon. Mr. Wong: I would like to inform the honourable member of the opposition that this document has not been considered by cabinet and no decision has been reached.

Mr. B. Rae: Speaking directly to the submission that is now before cabinet where it says under the heading "Assumptions" that, "Federal regulations are adequate to prevent Ontario Hydro's tritium from being misused for nuclear weapons," I wonder if the minister can tell me which federal regulations prevent the export of tritium being used to free up other supplies in the United States and other nuclear weapons states.

Can he point out the federal regulation that prevents the freeing up of tritium in the United States to be used for military purposes?

Hon. Mr. Wong: What I would like to make clear at the outset in my answer is that any consideration for the sale of tritium would be that it would be used for peaceful purposes only; that is number one. Number two, I have given publicly and to this House the assurance that we would want to make sure that any tritium that was sold, if it was sold, would not be used for displacement, as the honourable leader has suggested.

I wish to further emphasize that this matter has not been discussed by cabinet yet. I want to reassure the House that if we were to consider providing small amounts of tritium for medical research on cancer, or research on acquired immune deficiency syndrome, or for safety reasons, for the production of signs, we would want to have assurances, not only at the federal level but also at our level, that stringent, proper, adequate safeguards were in place.

Mr. B. Rae: The minister will know there is nothing in this document that talks about what the safeguards are, how they would work, where they would work or how they would be put in place. There is nothing in the background document about the fact that the Savannah facility has been shut down in the United States. There is nothing in the document about the extent of the market in the United States and how, with respect to the United States, primarily a military market, far and away the largest use for tritium is in the military market.

I wonder if the minister can tell us, just how is it that Ontario Hydro is (a) going to ensure what its exports are used for; and (b) how can Ontario Hydro, once something has gone into the market, possibly control whether or not that substance is being used as a displacement for military tritium being developed in the United States? Can the minister enlighten the House at all on both these basic questions?

Hon. Mr. Wong: First, I wish to clarify that the assumption on which the honourable member is speaking assumes foreign sales. As I said earlier, the cabinet has not discussed this matter. We might decide that the best option and the best strategy is to develop a strong industry within Ontario and within Canada, for example.

Let me follow through with the logic of the honourable leader's question. With respect to safeguards, we will be giving consideration to the fact that any commercial agreement—not looking at federal agreements country to country,

but at any commercial agreement—would have to contain provisions for onsite inspection so that we could check the inventories. If Ontario Hydro sold some—to the honourable member's company, if he had a company that was making signs, just as an example—I would want to have the right to go to see his operation three months from now to see if he actually did produce the number of signs he said he was going to produce.

I might further say that if the member wants to use the United States as an example, the first priority in that country is that tritium produced there is used by the military. If there is any extra, it goes to the civilian sector, not vice versa.

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Mr. Runciman: I have a question for the minister of bafflebag, also known as the Minister of Financial Institutions. In the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board decision handed down yesterday, it would appear the board has been very careful not to give an example for senior citizens. Given the political makeup of that particular board, one has to assume it would have given one if it could have found one that put the government in a good light.

Will the minister tell us what consideration the board gave to seniors' concerns in its deliberations, especially concerns dealing with affordability, and will he also advise us why the board failed to give even one example of how its decisions impact on seniors?

1400

Hon. Mr. Elston: The member would have to ask the board members the reason they did not go beyond the age of 50. The member already knows that one of the things we had committed to as a government was the end of discrimination on the basis of age, sex, marital status, family status and handicap.

As a result of the elimination of that age discrimination factor, there is an adjustment required throughout the marketplace. I have seen some indications that show that the adjustments in the seniors' area, on a company basis, will not be as major as those given earlier by the honourable gentleman with respect to the 30-year-old driver with two years' experience in Scarborough, for instance, which was a favourite example used by a number of people to illustrate the possible size of increases.

We will have to wait for the next 30 days to see exactly what rates are filed by the insurance industry and what steps are taken to deal with a very competitive market for the placement of insurance in Ontario.

For the answer to the question why the example was not given about seniors, the honourable gentleman will have to speak with the board.

Mr. Runciman: I think seniors would have been well served by at least one good seniors example.

One category where the board did give at least a few indications of the pain to come was for young female drivers. The report details increases of 82 per cent, 42 per cent, 48 per cent and so on. The chairman of the board, Mr. Kruger, says these kinds of increases are "just and reasonable and not excessive."

Does the minister agree with Mr. Kruger that 42 per cent to 82 per cent increases covering just a nine-month period are just and reasonable?

Hon. Mr. Elston: One of the things we had committed to, as I earlier said, was the elimination of sex discrimination as the basis of setting rates. There is some adjustment required as a result of the end of that discrimination. When the honourable gentleman reflects upon the example of the 82 per cent increase, which he fondly holds out as the example, he will know over 55 per cent of that change is a result of the end of discrimination built into the new plan situation.

That being the case, then at the benchmark rate the increase is only 12 per cent. It is substantially higher, of course, if they go to the 17 per cent increase rate, or the top rate as set out in that table. We must explain to the people of the province, I think, that in fact the elimination of that discrimination plays a substantial role in showing an increase in that particular example.

The other thing the honourable member for Leeds-Grenville will want to indicate, as he supports private enterprise, is that the marketplace will have a lot to say over the next 30 days about the exact placement of the rate in the context of that Scarborough example. He will also want to say that the Timmins example shows—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. Runciman: This minister is nothing more than a very poor flim-flam man trying to pull the wool over the eyes of consumers.

Last year, while the government was snuggling up to the New Democratic Party, this party was the only party opposed to the risk classification changes, primarily because of our concern over its impact on seniors in this province, many of whom are on fixed incomes and heavily reliant on their vehicles. But this arrogant government and its NDP friends refused to listen. Now seniors in this province are going to be hit with a

double whammy because of the government and its socialist friends.

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. Runciman: The government created this problem. Will the minister tell us what plans he has now to cushion the severe impact on this important group in society?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I want to thank the honourable member for Leeds-Grenville for clarifying his philosophical position today. Robert Runciman of the right has reappeared in full and blazing rhetoric. I am pleased to see he is back after a brief encounter of the interesting kind with the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. B. Rae) yesterday.

I want to indicate that it is quite clear this government stands for the end of the discrimination that has affected all parts of our society in the province. We have a goal to see there is equal treatment for all people who attend here in Ontario, not just with respect to auto insurance but also with respect to coverage for health, access to jobs, access to opportunities to be full and free participants in a democratic society we have come to love and honour as the best anywhere, right around the world.

We want to be sure we end discrimination. The member stands for discrimination. That is fair enough by me. Under this class plan, we have a real indication that there should be elimination of discrimination on the basis of age, sex, marital status, family status or handicap, and we are proceeding to do that. There will be adjustments required and there will be increases, that is true; as a result of the end of this discrimination there are also some decreases.

HOSPITAL SERVICES

Mr. Eves: I have a question for the Minister of Health. Last Wednesday, February 8, I asked the minister a question in the House about the proposed merger of Toronto Western Hospital and Toronto General Hospital cardiac surgery units. She stated to the House at that time, "In fact, I am not familiar with the premise or hypothesis that the member presents." Has the minister taken the last six days to familiarize herself with the hypothesis I presented and what is her comment on it?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The Toronto General Hospital and the Toronto Western Hospital some time ago merged to form the Toronto Hospital Corp. They do internal planning; if at some time they have a proposal to submit to the ministry I would be interested in seeing whatever their proposal would be.

Mr. Eves: Everybody is well aware of those facts. There might be palm trees in Florida at this time of year, too. That is all very interesting, but that is not the question we asked. Has the minister familiarized herself with this issue or not?

The nurses of the cardiovascular unit at Toronto Western Hospital took it upon themselves to deliver this package to the minister's office on Friday, February 3, and asked her receptionist specifically to bring it to the minister's attention no later than Monday, February 6. It is now February 14, Valentine's Day for the minister's information. Has she looked into this proposal or not? Does she agree with it or not? What are her comments? Is she or is she not in favour of reducing the number of cardiovascular surgeries able to be performed in Metropolitan Toronto in one year by this proposed merger?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Clearly, the critic for the third party has little or no understanding of the planning process, either in hospitals individually or in the province generally. I can tell him directly that no formal proposal has been reviewed by the district health council nor has it come directly to the ministry for consideration.

Mr. Eves: The answer the minister has just given to those two questions and to the three questions on February 8 is exactly the problem we have in the health care system here today. She does not even know that the information has been sitting on her own desk since February 3.

For the minister's information, the Value Improvement Program, VIP, was a recent study completed by the Baxter company. They compared the cardiovascular divisions of six North American hospitals. Toronto Western Hospital was ranked first in the following areas: shorter intensive care unit stay, shorter in-hospital stay, cost-effectiveness and efficiency.

The nurses in the cardiovascular unit at Toronto Western are very seriously concerned about this proposed merger. They are concerned about it because it is going to reduce the number of procedures able to be performed in Metropolitan Toronto per year, a reduction of some 400 according to one of the cardiovascular surgeons there.

They go on to say in their letter they delivered to the minister's office many days ago: "The proposed move will have very serious implications for the nursing staff who in our view represent the single most important resource of any hospital. It is vital that the concerns of the

nurses are considered in decisions made by Toronto Hospital."

1410

Mr. Speaker: Did they have a question?

Mr. Eves: It is vital that the concerns of the nurses are considered in decisions made by Toronto Hospital Corp. Will the Minister of Health get serious about this issue and look into this matter? There are people on the waiting list out there dying while waiting for cardiovascular surgery, and she is concerned about the planning process. Is she going to do something about this or not? Yes or no?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: My primary concern is always the delivery of services.

Mr. Eves: Well, get serious and find out what is going on in your own ministry.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I would repeat for the member opposite, if he will listen, that no proposal has been submitted to the Ministry of Health from the Toronto Hospital Corp. Second, the facts speak for themselves. We have funded in Toronto and across this province for an increase in capacity, a significant increase in capacity in cardiovascular services right across this province. He knows that and he knows as well that hospitals are free to discuss internally their planning within the hospital. They must then submit those plans at the appropriate time for approval to the ministry. We have received no such proposal from the Toronto Hospital Corp.

Mr. Speaker: That completes that question and response.

Mr. Eves: No, you have received it from the nurses, from the cardiovascular nurses.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: We'll have to hire a new private detective to snoop around.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Parry Sound and the Minister of Health. Order.

VISITOR

Mr. Speaker: Members may be interested to know that we have Ted Bounsall, the former member for Windsor-Sandwich, in our gallery.

PROPERTY SPECULATION

Mr. Breaugh: I have a question for the Minister of Housing concerning speculation in housing. Yesterday the minister seemed not at all concerned that a single-family home had risen \$69,000 in price in just 82 days. Does she consider this to be acceptable speculation in apartment buildings: A 75-unit apartment building at 2 Biggin Court in North York was sold in

February 1986 for \$1.8 million and was resold in April 1987 for \$2.6 million, a little over 43 per cent increase in the price of that apartment building in 14 months? Is that not speculation and why does she continue to allow that kind of land speculation to occur?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I think the appropriate person to answer that question is the Treasurer.

Mr. Speaker: That question has been referred to the Treasurer.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Perhaps you would repeat it.

Mr. Speaker: Would the member repeat the question?

Mr. Breaugh: I would be happy to go to England to repeat the question.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: You were invited. You screwed up.

Mr. Speaker: I hope it will not take that long.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: This is about land speculation tax; perhaps it does not have to be repeated.

I certainly appreciate the question the honourable member has put forward, which is about the ninth time he has put it forward. The arguments for the land speculation tax remain just as they are described in the *Globe and Mail* this morning.

I was interested to see in the *Globe and Mail* this morning that in tomorrow's article the columnist is going to describe why the government does not go forward with a land speculation tax and perhaps we should leave the answer until then. Otherwise, we are very much aware, as the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek) has said on many occasions, that the costs of accommodation in this rapidly growing, world-class city are going up very quickly. As a matter of fact, they are going up in much the same proportion as most other cities in the world that are experiencing the economic growth that we are fortunate enough to experience here.

We are monitoring the matter very carefully. So far, I believe as Treasurer that a land speculation tax would be unproductive, but that does not mean that consideration of the matter should not continue. I can assure the honourable member that I have a high regard for his views on public matters and the fact that he has raised it again means that I will read the briefing note again.

Mr. Breaugh: I am so pleased that the Treasurer has learned to read in the interim. That is always a good step.

Does the Treasurer consider this to be appropriate in the middle of a housing crisis: This is a

12-unit building at 85 Beech Avenue in the city of Toronto. Its price went from \$660,000 in November 1986 to just a little over \$1 million in October 1987, which is a 47 per cent increase in the price of that particular building. Does he not understand the ripple effect of that kind of speculation on the whole housing market? Does he not understand that basically all that the Minister of Housing is trying to do is going down the drain because of this continued speculation?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I am also aware that international journals have indicated the rapid increase in housing prices in most world-class cities, and I consider Toronto to be one of those. That does not mean there is no solution here that we could not inaugurate, but frankly I believe the economic pressures and adjustments associated with that are sufficient to mean that a land speculation tax is not necessary now.

I do not discount the utilization of the thing in the future, but just like other honourable members, I lived through the last land speculation tax. I found that it was dislocating. It ended in a royal commission, at which I was a witness. I thought the whole thing was rather a bollocks of administrative responsibility from start to finish, and I am not anxious to repeat it. It could be that under the guidance of an enlightened administration it would work better, but the example we have to follow, in spite of recent newspaper reports, is anything but one that I would want to duplicate.

TRITIUM

Mr. Cureatz: I have a question of the Minister of Energy. It is my understanding that cabinet submissions have been in favour of the sale of tritium outside of the province. Is that true, is he personally in favour of such sale and is he advocating the sale of tritium?

Hon. Mr. Wong: I am sorry, I did not hear the last part of the question, but the first part I would like to answer and indicate that cabinet will be discussing all of the options. There is no favourite. We have to be assured, as I indicated before, that the tritium is used for peaceful purposes. We want to be very responsible in determining what the application will be, what the use of this tritium will be.

In addition to the safety and the assurances, there are also the economic aspects that perhaps I have not talked about. The tritium that will come from our reactors is being removed from the tritiated water so that it is safer for the workers at our nuclear plants. This tritium between now and the year 2000 would have a value of perhaps a

few hundred million dollars. If we only sold a fraction of that, is that something this government and the people of the province should be considering in developing competitive global strategies?

Mr. Cureatz: Speaking of safety, it is my understanding that Ontario Hydro will be announcing this afternoon the closure of its new multimillion-dollar tritium plant at the Darlington site, which is in my riding.

Would the minister confirm to the House that this is so, that Hydro will be closing the plant? Does he know why it is closing the plant? Does he not think it is important to first be producing the tritium in a safe manner before he even thinks of selling it?

Hon. Mr. Wong: The Darlington tritium removal facility is a separate problem, a separate issue. This is a plant that cost \$150 million. It is a plant that is very sophisticated. It will separate tritium gas from heavy water in the order of 20 parts per million.

What Hydro has decided is that while the plant and facility is working, it is not working to its standards, so what it has decided is that it should repair and bring the equipment, including heat exchangers, compressors and turbines, up to the level and the standards at which it wishes to operate. For that reason it will be in temporary shutdown until these repairs are made.

PUBLIC SECTOR PENSION PLANS

Mr. Elliot: I have a question for the Treasurer. It pertains to teachers' pensions.

The teachers of Ontario are quite confused as to the state of the Treasurer's negotiations with the leadership of the Ontario Teachers' Federation. They fear their pensions are in jeopardy and that he is unwilling to discuss the legislation he proposed to ensure their pensions are not at risk. Are the teachers' pensions at risk and why have negotiations broken off?

1420

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I thank the honourable member for notice of the question. The teachers' pensions certainly are not at risk. All the service that teachers have already funded through their contributions, which have been matched by contributions from the taxpayers, is guaranteed. The continuing service of the teachers falls into that same category.

However, the actuarial deficit of the indexing aspect of that pension cannot be funded fully at the contribution rate presently in existence. As Treasurer, I believe this has to be set right, by either reducing the benefits, particularly the

indexing benefits, or increasing the contributions from both the employer and the employees.

The teachers, through their representatives, have clearly indicated they want the full indexing to continue. Therefore, it is my judgement—and the arithmetic is quite plain, ordinary and clear—that the contributions must go up by approximately one per cent on each side.

I have indicated to the teachers—we have met with them over a period of three to four months—that I cannot wait for any significant period of time longer, since the actuarial deficit is accruing at a rather frightening rate. This is based on legislation, passed by this House in 1975, which gave the indexing aspects to the pension fund that make it so generous, and frankly attractive for the teachers.

Mr. Elliot: My supplementary has to do with the concern of Ontario Public Service Employees Union members who are also worried about the breakdown of discussions pertaining to their pensions. What is the main cause of that breakdown of negotiations between the OPSEU leadership and the government?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I do not consider that there has been a breakdown in our discussions. There were formal meetings which led to the advice, as I have already indicated to the honourable member, that our employees in OPSEU as well as the teachers want to continue the full indexing provisions of their pension plan.

Both the teachers and the OPSEU members indicated that they wanted other aspects of the pension plan settled by compulsory binding arbitration. As Treasurer, I have to represent the taxpayers—the employers—on both of these funds, which have assets amounting to \$20 billion. It is my view that handing over to a third party the responsibility for compulsory binding arbitration is not appropriate and that this is a responsibility that the government, as the primary employer, must continue to maintain.

Our employees do not agree with that, but I guess that is something we will both have to live with. This does not mean for a moment that the Treasurer and other members of the government—the Premier (Mr. Peterson) himself, he tells me, is meeting from time to time with representatives—are not prepared to listen to other alternatives. In my view, I cannot put myself in a position to recommend compulsory binding arbitration to my colleagues.

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Mr. Allen: My question is to the Minister of Community and Social Services. The high and

the mighty and the small and the humble are joining forces to demand that the minister implement immediately the first stage of the Social Assistance Review Committee's report. Yesterday it was Conrad Black, whom I am happy to ally our party with on that particular demand.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: He will be supporting the NDP the next time.

Mr. B. Rae: We are very close.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Allen: This morning, a small group of south Etobicoke family benefits recipients from the East Mall-West Mall Action Group brought to the minister a large red valentine. I am not sure that the valentine displayed their exact sentiments, but none the less they were asking exactly the same thing: why, if Mr. Black and these sole-support mothers agree that there is both human and economic benefit to be gained from the implementation of the SARC proposals, have the minister, the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) and the Premier (Mr. Peterson) refused to do anything on the SARC agenda to these many months?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: I must admit I was a little bit surprised at yesterday's events. I was advised that, in addition to Mr. Black, the president of the Toronto-Dominion Bank was also present. That does give some indication that there is a broad base of consensus.

I certainly would not agree with the honourable member's comment that the Treasurer, the Premier and this minister have done nothing for the last six months. The member is well aware of the fact that I have been meeting on a regular basis with a large number of provincial groups and am continuing to do so even today. We are in the process of negotiating the budget at the present time. That is going on, and I have indicated that when the speech from the throne and the budget speech come out, the member will know as much about it as I do.

Mr. Allen: The surly response of the Treasurer to Mr. Black, as reported in the Toronto Star, for example, did not really give us a great deal of hope about the prospect that the minister holds out. The Treasurer's great commitment to poverty issues did not exactly show up in the economic outlook and fiscal review. There was no sign of it there as an economic factor in Ontario's prospects.

Will the minister reassure us that Mr. Black, and the East Mall-West Mall group that came this morning, will hear the government, at the very

latest in the throne speech, announce the full implementation of the first stage of the Social Assistance Review Committee's proposals?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: I would like to take a little issue with the honourable member's reference to my friend the Treasurer. I can go through a litany of initiatives in the social assistance program of which the Treasurer has been extremely supportive.

I remind the member that when I went to him to ask for additional money to assist parents to buy winter clothing for their children, the Treasurer was very supportive. When I went to him to ask for additional money to put an additional \$50 a month in for disabled people in the province, he was very supportive. When I went to him to ask for a significant \$25-million increase in shelter subsidy support, and more recently for utility cost support, the Treasurer was very supportive. I have to suggest to the honourable member that based on that track record, the Treasurer is going to continue to be very supportive.

Mr. B. Rae: Please, sir, can we have some more?

Mr. Reville: Stone soup.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

ASSISTANCE FOR THE DISABLED

Mr. Jackson: My question is to the Minister without Portfolio responsible for disabled persons. I wish to bring to the minister's attention the case of 10-year-old Wally Elgersma. Wally is confined to a wheelchair and suffers from spina bifida. While Wally was enrolled in public school, he received the assistance of the Victorian Order of Nurses through the Ministry of Health.

Can the minister explain why his government has cut off Wally Elgersma's VON services because he has moved to another school only two miles down the road and is now enrolled in a Christian school?

Hon. Mr. Mancini: I think that question would be more properly addressed to the Minister of Community and Social Services, who is responsible for the delivery of that program.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: I wish there was someone else I could refer it to, because I do not know the answer. I would be delighted, though, to look into the question the honourable member has raised and get that information for him.

Mr. Jackson: I am quite shocked that the minister responsible for Ontario's disabled does

not even understand a program which he is responsible to advocate for. I am not talking about an educational program. He would have most likely referred it to the Minister of Education (Mr. Ward) or the Ministry of Community and Social Services. It is a Ministry of Health program.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Ask the Minister of Health then.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Playing games.

Mr. Harris: He's the minister responsible. That's his job, to make sure it happens.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question was referred to the Minister of Community and Social Services. You heard his response. He was not aware of it but would get the information. You may ask him for more information, if you wish.

Mr. Jackson: My supplement was going to be that he refer it to the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan), who runs the program, but that is not my supplementary question.

My supplementary question is, will any minister of this House who chooses to discuss the matters of the disabled please respond as to why it is the position of the government that Wally Elgersma should be discriminated against and denied these medical services basically because of his religious convictions?

1430

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: As I indicated, I do not know what the answer to the first question is, but I certainly cannot accept that the reason, whatever it may be, would be the one that the honourable member has given. I will certainly find out, but just the fact that he is in a Christian school versus a public school would not be the reason. It could be the district that he is living in, it could be the availability of the service, there could be a number of things, and I will be happy to find out what they are and to share them with the honourable member.

ROAD SAFETY

Mr. Owen: I have a question for the Minister of Transportation. Police advise me that the incidence of bad driving, including speeding, is substantially on the increase across the province. I understand that the fines for driving offences have not been increased since 1977.

The police tell me that a \$15 speeding ticket can cost in the neighbourhood of \$50 to process. They suggest that if we raise the fines, it would not only meet the costs of processing but it would also serve as a deterrent to bad driving. What sort

of response would the minister have to this recommendation of the police?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I thank the member for his question. I thank him too for his ongoing and I think very profound interest in highway and road safety. The issue he raises on highway safety is paramount within our ministry. I think the real reason for the existence of the ministry is to save lives in Ontario and I think we have attempted to address that in a number of ways.

We are looking for ways to increase fines to act as more of a deterrent. In line with that, we are looking at revising the demerit point system, which we hope would also create a safer climate within the roads and highways in Ontario.

Mr. Owen: The incidence of accidents is increasing. The property damage and physical injury incidents are increasing across the province. It would appear that two of the top causes of traffic accidents are too much speed and following too close.

It has been suggested to me that we should be improving driver education requirements for beginning drivers and repeat traffic offenders and that possibly this might reduce accidents and be a factor in our ongoing debate about insurance premiums. What is the minister's response to that proposal?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I would concur with the member that speeding is probably the greatest cause—certainly attributed by the police—of fatal accidents, pedestrian injuries and so on. I do not think there is much doubt about that.

What we are looking at is perhaps making the driver testing procedures somewhat more difficult. We are really looking with a bottom-line objective of making it more difficult and tougher and to get on the roads of Ontario and more difficult and tougher to stay on the roads of Ontario.

WORKPLACE HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INFORMATION SYSTEM

Mr. Mackenzie: I have a question for the Minister of Labour. During the recent Labour estimates, I asked the minister to respond to a letter he received from Norm Carriere, co-ordinator of occupational health and safety of the United Steelworkers of America, who pointed out a survey concerning the implementation of the workplace hazardous materials information system, Bill 79, announced with such fanfare by this government and to be enforced by October 31, 1988.

The steelworkers carried out a survey of more than 150 companies; 50 had complied, 50 were in

the process of doing something about it and 51 had not done a single thing about the legislation.

Can the minister tell us what we have to do to get enforcement of this legislation?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The member for Hamilton East does not even have one hint in his voice that it is Valentine's Day, but I am going to answer the question anyway.

I think that letter is now about three or four weeks old. I want to remind my friend the member for Hamilton East that the period for implementing the training aspects of WHMIS expired only a few days ago, on January 31, 1989, so that when the United Steelworkers of America and Mr. Carriere were undertaking their investigation, many companies were in the process of complying, at least with the training aspects of the WHMIS program.

I would not want him to send the signal out through his question that there is not general compliance with the WHMIS project. In fact, everything we have seen indicates that there has been broad, general and comprehensive compliance with the legislation. It is a tribute, by the way, to trade unions, to employers, to workers and to the government, all of whom work co-operatively in implementing WHMIS.

I want to congratulate the member on Valentine's Day, because I know his party and his friends in the trade union movement did a very good job implementing WHMIS.

Mr. Mackenzie: I do not think the minister can get away with that kind of pabulum in this House. The minister knows there was a brief extension allowed for secondary suppliers, that is all, in terms of the program. The letter to the minister stated, "I enclose the list of names and addresses of companies who had not complied with any of the amendments in Bill 79 by October 30, 1988"—or any of the training programs.

What is the minister doing about 51 companies under contract who have not done a single thing? The legislation was passed a year and a half ago and was supposed to be enforced as of last October.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I do not think we should have to put up with that kind of you know what in the House. October 31 is the day that WHMIS came into force, I tell my friend the member for Hamilton East. It was the day upon which employers had to begin the training process. The act stipulates that the training is to go on—

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The member for Hamilton East is shouting and screaming. In quoting

the letter, he refers to the fact that employers had not done anything by October 31. That was the starting bell. That is when the obligation to train began. There was a four-month window for that training. Indeed, there is another window for secondary suppliers and users of chemicals and that date has not yet come: it is March 31.

I want to tell him again that every indication we have is that employers and workers and their representatives are complying with WHMIS. It is a tribute to everyone in Ontario that this is taking place. I do not think he should send out a misimpression to anyone that there is not compliance. Where there is not compliance, we have mechanisms to enforce the law.

USE OF LOT LEVIES

Mr. J. M. Johnson: The Speaker will be pleased to know this is a quiet question and a short question to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. Do municipal councils have the legal right to levy and collect their own lot levies?

Hon. Mr. Eakins: The question of lot levies is an optional opportunity for municipalities if they wish to do so. Some municipalities do have lot levies and some do not.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: As they do have the legal right to do so, why then has the minister's government notified the municipal councils to not make any changes in their lot levy schedule?

Hon. Mr. Eakins: Anyone who has read the green paper will know that the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) is asking for comments from municipalities. In the meantime, until that information and comments are received from the municipalities, I think it is only appropriate that the lot levies remain as they are.

EDUCATION OF HEARING-IMPAIRED

Ms. Collins: My question is for the Minister of Education. Since his announcement of the Ontario deaf education review last November, I have had calls from constituents and advocacy groups in my riding asking how they can become participants in the process. Can the minister suggest how these people can have input?

Hon. Mr. Ward: As I am sure the member is well aware, there has certainly been a lot of interest since the November 1 announcement of the first major review of deaf education in this province in many decades. The member will no doubt recall that we started with an internal review process, that is a self-evaluation by deliverers of deaf education in this province, whether it be our provincial schools such as the ones at Milton, Belleville and London or whether

it be those boards of education throughout the province that offer deaf education programs.

Beginning in May, the second phase of that review process will begin. It will be an independent external review phase with a panel of external deaf education experts coming to Ontario to help us evaluate and improve on our delivery. The external team will be visiting all of the provincial schools as well as many other board jurisdictions to look at deaf education programs. I expect they will be holding open houses throughout the province.

In terms of the good people of Wentworth East, I should advise the member that I would expect the provincial school in Milton will be holding an open forum. I also understand that some interest has been expressed by the Hamilton-Wentworth Roman Catholic Separate School Board in participating in that review, so those opportunities may be available to her constituents.

1440

Ms. Collins: I have also heard comments from members on another part of the minister's review, that is the advisory committee groups within the deaf education community. I understand some members have suggested that the minister divide the advisory committee into consumer and delivery groups.

Could the minister please tell this House how he has responded to these suggestions?

Hon. Mr. Ward: In putting together the groups that we thought could provide the most valuable input and the most assistance throughout this entire process, we have looked very carefully at bringing in a broad cross-section, both from those who are served by the deaf education programs currently in place and those who deliver the programs. We believe that representatives of both of these groups do in fact bring special perspectives to this entire issue and that they can make their views, their feelings and their input known through the submission of briefs and presentations to the committee.

I, for one, believe it is fundamentally important that we do our utmost to bring everyone throughout this community together to approach the very difficult issues that have to be resolved. That is the approach we have chosen, albeit there are some suggestions that we divert from this approach.

PREPAID SERVICES

Mr. Farnan: I have a question to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. It is now abundantly clear that the track record of

fly-by-night, quick-buck artists within the health and fitness industry demands stringent controls in order to protect consumers. There have been 12 such clubs closed in Ontario within the past 12 months.

When will the minister exercise his responsibility to protect the consumers and broaden the legislation so that clubs already in existence will be covered by the legislation and their members protected, and when will the minister establish an insurance fund similar to that existing within the travel industry? Consumers are being ripped off—

Mr. Speaker: The question has been asked.

Mr. Farnan: —and the minister is doing nothing about it.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: The opposite is more accurately the fact. The fact of the matter is that the Prepaid Services Act goes a very long way, as the honourable member knows, to ensuring that the risk to consumers and the opportunity for consumers to lose significant amounts of money is reduced, first of all by allowing memberships to be collected on an annual basis only and indeed by forcing companies to put forward a number of payment programs.

I can say to the honourable member, on the second part of his question, that the area of establishing a compensation fund or some kind of insurance fund, as he quite correctly suggests we now have in the travel industry, was carefully looked at and canvassed. At this time, the government believes that the fitness industry is too diverse and does not have the kind of maturity that the travel industry has to allow a compensation fund to go forward carefully. But that is a worthwhile suggestion and we are continuing to monitor that situation very closely.

Mr. Speaker: That completes the allotted time for oral questions and responses.

The members may be interested to know that today we had a first: a member asked a question, there was a response, there was a supplementary question, another response and it took one minute.

Mr. Allen: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: Is the Speaker suggesting that the quality of questioning is dependent totally on the shortness thereof, and the answer?

Mr. Speaker: I appreciate the comment. The only thing I would say is that I feel the proper thing is to have as many members ask questions as possible.

PETITIONS

RAPE CRISIS CENTRES

Mr. Jackson: I have a petition to the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We ask the government to take into account the views expressed by 13 members of the Beta Sigma Phi sorority, led by Peg Doty of Longbow Lake, Ontario, who have said:

"The failure of the provincial government to recognize the importance of funding to provide comprehensive care to sexual assault survivors has already resulted in the closure of one centre. Other centres are faced with closure, and still more have been forced to cut back on services. We request the ministry to take the necessary action to ensure ongoing funding."

That petition has been signed and has my support.

CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I have 15 pages of a petition signed by some 200 people.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the crown in the province of Ontario continues a lengthy, futile and expensive prosecution against the Church of Scientology; and

"Whereas at no time in recorded history has an entire church been charged with a criminal offence for the actions of individuals, and freedom of religion in the province is at risk; and

"Whereas the alleged offences occurred over a decade ago and those responsible have been expelled from the church or rehabilitated,

"We petition the Attorney General and the government of Ontario to withdraw the charges against the church and end this prosecution."

I have affixed my signature thereto.

TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION

Mr. Matrundola: I have a petition addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"To amend the Teachers' Superannuation Act, 1983, in order that all teachers who retired prior to May 31, 1982, have their pensions recalculated on the best five years rather than at the present seven or 10 years.

"This proposed amendment would make the five-year criteria applicable to all retired teachers and would eliminate the present inequitable treatment."

The petition bears the signatures of 297 teachers residing in North York and surrounding

municipalities; 141 of the signatories are active teachers and 156 are retired teachers.

I have affixed my signature to the petition.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Miss Martel: I have two petitions. The first is addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and it reads as follows:

"The proposals of Bill 162 will effectively abolish pensions, reduce temporary benefits, severely restrict supplements, deny rights and avenues of appeal, and minimize effective rehabilitation. This petition from the USWA Local 7480 will show how firmly we oppose Bill 162."

I have a second petition addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It reads as follows:

"We care about injured workers. We protest the Minister of Labour's proposal to change the law; that would take away injured workers' rights to permanent disability pensions when they are permanently disabled, that would do almost nothing about the miserable compensation of existing injured workers and their widows, and that would leave the injured workers of the future worse off. Workers who are killed or injured in their work deserve much better treatment than this."

I have signed both petitions and I agree entirely.

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ORDERS OF THE DAY

POLICE AND SHERIFFS STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT (continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 187, An Act to amend certain Acts as they relate to Police and Sheriffs.

Mr. Laughren: It is my pleasure to engage in this debate on An Act to amend certain Acts as they relate to Police and Sheriffs. This bill would transfer some of the responsibility for court security, among other things, from the province to the local municipalities and their police forces.

This caucus is opposed to this piece of legislation. We are opposed to it because we know it is another attempt by this government to put a heavier burden on the property taxpayers at the local level. It is not enough that they have frozen the unconditional grants; they are now saying, "Here's something else the municipalities must absorb." The long-suffering property

taxpayer once again picks up the tab because this government does not have the courage to pay for what it has traditionally paid for. That is a sad commentary indeed.

There have been representations made to the government and to the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) by a significant number of municipalities and their police forces. I know Chief Zanibbi of the Sudbury Regional Police Force made a very strong presentation to the Attorney General in which he claimed that the total cost to the regional municipality of Sudbury will be about \$300,000. That is \$300,000 which the regional municipality of Sudbury is going to have to pick up which it was not previously paying for.

It seems to me that court security should continue to be a provincial responsibility, not a local responsibility. There is no question that the intention of the act is to transfer that responsibility to the local police forces.

We know for a fact that many police forces in the province do not have a sufficient number of police officers to staff courthouses with adequate security. A rough estimate has been done that by the time the costs of fringe benefits, salaries and so forth are added up, it is about \$50,000 for each police officer. In Sudbury, for example, with an estimated additional six police officers, the local municipality and its long-suffering property taxpayers will have to pick up the tab of about \$300,000 if this bill passes.

There is no additional revenue from the province to pay for this. I saw correspondence from the Attorney General in which he indicated that the \$3 per capita grant was supposed to look after that. That is ridiculous. That is long gone. For the government to argue that is going to look after this is a ridiculous assertion on the part of the Attorney General. In the case of the regional municipality of Sudbury, the province is plainly and simply transferring the cost of at least \$300,000, with no revenue to compensate for it.

I would have hoped that the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Eakins) would have seen himself as a defender of the municipalities in this case and would have stood up to the Attorney General and said, "No, you're not going to do that to my people." That is what the minister should have said. Maybe he did say it and maybe he lost the battle. I do not know. Certainly he should not have sat back and allowed this to happen.

The bill does not reflect any kind of comprehensive approach to court security; it is simply deciding: "Here's where we can find some money to save. We'll dump this cost on the local

municipality." It is not as though the province had decided it was time to put in an entirely new system of court security all across the province. It had nothing to do with that, nothing at all.

If it were part of an overall package to improve security all across the province with sophisticated methods of security, transferring of prisoners and so forth, then perhaps the province could argue, "This is what we're trying to do and here's how we are going to help the municipalities to do it." Fine, they could make an argument.

There is nothing honourable about this. It is simply dumping more costs on the local municipality. It seems to me that something like the cost of security for our court system should be absorbed at the provincial level and not at the local level.

I thought it would be appropriate to read to the Attorney General's parliamentary assistant exactly what the Sudbury regional police chief had to say. This is a fax copy to me dated January 9, 1989, from Chief Zanibbi. He said:

"I wish to solicit your assistance with regard to a bill which will be tabled in the Legislature on Tuesday, January 10. The bill I am referring to is number 187 and it deals with police officers replacing sheriffs in the district courts of Ontario. This is being proposed by the Attorney General. However, the police chiefs' association of Ontario and the municipal police authorities of Ontario are in opposition to this proposed legislation.

"The primary reason for this opposition is the cost that is going to be transferred from the province to the individual municipalities where district courts are located. In so far as Sudbury is concerned, the impact on our local municipal police budget will be in the order of \$300,000 if this legislation is proclaimed.

"I would ask that you vote against the bill in order that we may be able to have the opportunity of putting forward our arguments as to why we do not feel municipalities should be charged with this responsibility.

"The Attorney General has argued that an additional \$3 in unconditional grants were made in 1985 to offset any costs related to police providing security within the courts. Although this in fact was the case in 1985, those dollars are more than absorbed by our responsibilities in the provincial courts alone and do not at all provide any funds for what is proposed in this new legislation.

"Your support in defeating this would be much appreciated as it would be of benefit to our

constituents in so far as having an impact on their taxes both this year and in the future."

Obviously, Chief Zanibbi is not simply making a plea to protect his own personal property taxes. He is doing it because he understands it is unfair. As police chief, he has an obligation to speak out when he sees something being done that is wrongheaded, and certainly it is wrongheaded.

I am glad to see that the member for Sudbury (Mr. Campbell) has just strolled into the chamber. I would be very much interested in knowing whether he is going to be with us in opposing this bill that is going to stick it to the local property taxpayers in Sudbury to the tune of \$300,000.

Mr. Campbell: They already have the money. They spent it on other things.

Mr. Laughren: I see. The member for Sudbury says the municipality already has the money and has spent it on something else. That is a very strange argument to make, very strange indeed.

Mr. Campbell: It's true.

Mr. Laughren: The fact that needs to be made known, and I guess the member for Sudbury does not understand it, is that up to this point the municipality has not been paying for this, and now it is being asked to pay for it.

Mr. Campbell: You get the grant; you should be willing to pay for it.

Mr. Laughren: Yes, and the unconditional grants have been frozen. Nothing else is frozen in terms of the cost to the municipality, but the grants from the province have been frozen. It is going to be very interesting to—

Mr. Campbell: It is right on the levy.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Lots of money for water and sewers, though.

Mr. Campbell: That grant has been there since 1985.

Mr. Laughren: The fact is that this is going to impose an additional tax burden of \$300,000 on the regional municipality of Sudbury. That is for this year. That is going to go up in the years to come. But is that \$3 grant from the province going up? No it is not; it is frozen.

It makes no sense whatsoever for the member for Sudbury to argue that the municipalities have the money to do this. That is ridiculous. They do not have the money to do this. Perhaps the member for Sudbury thinks that property taxes are not high enough in the municipality of Sudbury, but I can tell him that most of his constituents feel that they are.

I can tell members that we in this caucus are very much opposed to this piece of legislation. I should tell them as well that the Windsor Police Force is very unhappy, and the Windsor municipal officers are very unhappy as well. Chief James Adkin of the Windsor Police Force noted that the cost to the municipality for providing this service would range from \$530,000 to \$795,000 per year. This is what the Windsor people say, that while the province has increased police grants to municipalities specifically to assist with the cost of court security, the grant to the city of Windsor was only \$230,874.

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Here we have the province giving a grant to the city of Windsor to the tune of \$230,874 and saying: "There, look after court security." But when the people in Windsor look at the total cost of providing that court security, it is anywhere from \$530,000 to \$795,000, more than twice as much as the grant the province is giving them.

I can only assume that the same applies for the regional municipality of Sudbury. The grant the province has given them for this is not going to meet the cost of providing the service. If the member for Sudbury thinks it is, I would like to hear him stand in his place and make the argument that this grant of \$3 per capita going to the regional municipality is going to pay for the cost of providing court security. It is simply not going to do it, and why he does not understand that is beyond my comprehension.

Mr. Campbell: You're assuming they're police officers. They may not be police officers, they may be security officers, so it may not be \$3,000.

Mr. Laughren: I am sure that people in Sudbury expect there to be adequate security at the courthouses. I am sure the judges in Sudbury expect adequate security at the courthouse.

Mr. Campbell: There are sheriff's officers as well. Sheriff's officers are not constables.

Mr. Laughren: Perhaps members who disagree with my point—the acting Speaker himself is from nearby the city of Windsor, and I am very pleased he is in the chair listening to this debate. I know I would be quite happy to sit down and listen to the arguments of the member for Sudbury who argues that it is not going to cost as much as Chief Zanibbi says it is going to cost to provide court security in the city of Sudbury. It seems to me that Chief Zanibbi knows a lot more about the cost of providing security to the courthouses than does the member for Sudbury.

Mr. Campbell: He's got his own agenda.

Mr. Laughren: I do not attribute motives to Chief Zanibbi as the member for Sudbury is doing.

I was reading through the previous debates on this particular legislation, particularly the contribution by my colleague the member for Rainy River (Mr. Hampton). I thought he made an excellent presentation and that I should support him in his efforts to have this legislation defeated.

I know this government assumes that when it introduces a piece of legislation, given the fact it has a huge majority, that it is just a given; it then becomes the law of the land. I see at least one cabinet minister nodding his head and saying: "Yes, that's true." I want to say it is that kind of attitude which will get this government in trouble. Just because it has the numbers to make this legislation the law of the land does not mean it is the right kind of legislation.

Mr. Neumann: You know we're sensitive. We make amendments to bills.

Mr. Laughren: I am glad the member for Brantford (Mr. Neumann) has raised the question of Sunday shopping. That is another issue on which the municipalities are not particularly pleased with this government. I do not know who else the government can offend out there. Is it looking for another group? There are the injured workers, the municipalities, the police chiefs across the province. The government has got the doctors angry at it. The nurses are angry. The optometrists are angry. Is there anybody else?

Mr. Jackson: The hunters and anglers.

Mr. Laughren: The hunters and anglers are furious and are demanding the resignation of the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio).

My goodness, I do not know how in the world this government that came to power with 95 members—94 now—has managed in a little over a year to alienate such a significant proportion of the Ontario electorate. It is truly amazing. The fact that they have done it without any leadership from the Premier (Mr. Peterson) is doubly astounding. I can see it if he were a real mover and shaker and introducing really substantive legislation that would offend, but oh no, he is doing it while the government wanders around completely lost. That really takes a particular skill, to alienate the population while you are not doing anything. It is truly remarkable.

I forgot to mention the drivers of Ontario. The automobile drivers of Ontario are furious with this government, because they heard the Premier

promise that there would be lower rates, and since he made that promise rates have gone up about 26 per cent.

Back to the bill, Mr. Speaker—and I know that, as the member for Windsor-Walkerville, you are particularly interested in this bill. Without drawing you into the debate, I have a funny feeling that if you were not in that chair and you were back in your place, you would be making a speech very similar to the one I am making.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Except much better, much more eloquent.

Mr. Laughren: Yes, he would be more eloquent and perhaps even more persuasive.

I do think it is important that the government understands that this is unfair legislation, unfair to the municipalities, and it is going to put a burden on them they should not have to accept. It is absolute nonsense for the government to argue that the unconditional grants are paying for the cost of transferring court security to the local municipalities. That is simply not the case and the government should know that. If the government really wants to check it out, the members should go and talk to the people in Windsor about how the grants are not going to pay even a half of what the new costs will be.

The municipalities in this province do not have access to the kind of tax base that the province does. There are some very legitimate progressive kinds of taxation that should be looking after these kinds of needs and it should not be coming from the long-suffering property taxpayers across this province.

Mr. Jackson: I am pleased to be able to rise and put on the record some of the concerns expressed to me by the citizens of Burlington and Halton region with respect to the inappropriateness of this bill, Bill 187.

It is very clear to those in our community that this bill is going to have the simple result of placing an additional financial burden on our municipality because we now become responsible for providing Ontario Provincial Police officers or members of our local police force to provide courtroom security.

This will be particularly difficult in Halton region because, like all other municipalities in this province, we have most recently learned that the government has arbitrarily frozen unconditional grants to the municipalities. By that action of this government it is clear why they did not wish to consult; they did not consult the municipalities, and they did not consult the police forces regarding this bill. To our best

knowledge, we doubt that they have even consulted with the OPP in this regard.

We are concerned that the government is shifting more and more of its financial burden on to municipalities and municipal taxpayers, but this is a particularly inappropriate and offensive dumping of responsibilities on to municipalities, because in a sense the government is saying: "We're not terribly concerned about security and standards and commitments. We'll let you work that out on your own."

It is abundantly clear, having discussed this with the local police force, that this decision is being made in a void; this government action is being promoted in a void. Like many other government programs, it has not been adequately costed. The government certainly has not looked at the impact this is going to have on basic security, not only for those persons participating in our judicial system in the arena of a courtroom but also in more general terms the public at large, for the facts are well documented of people breaking incarceration, those people who are threatening not only life and property in our courtrooms but also in public if they break custody.

I had occasion to discuss this bill with our chief of police in Halton, Chief James Harding, whom all members of this House will recognize with interest and respect since the Premier has appointed him to the recent race relations inquiry going on in the city of Toronto and at large in Ontario. We all express our appreciation for the expertise and the sensitivity which Police Chief Harding will be bringing to that set of hearings.

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Is it not somewhat ironic that the government can turn to an outstanding police chief like Chief Harding and look to him for that kind of wisdom, that sensitivity and understanding of the workings of our police forces and the security they provide our communities and our province, and yet when the chief articulates concerns on behalf of all municipalities and all courts in this province, the government suggests that he is not speaking from a series of foundations or from a series of facts?

The fact is that this bill should not be passed and that is why we will vote against it. We strongly urge that it be sent to committee so that the public will be able to unfold all the elements of this arbitrary intrusion into municipal governance.

The government has failed to examine clearly the impact that this is going to have on police forces because it has failed to consult with them,

but if this government would take the time to listen, it could hear from police forces and it would be clear that besides the cost of training, for example, there are additional fixed costs which will be required to implement Bill 187. These would include additional salaries, additional weapons, additional communications equipment such as portable radios, access to telephones, and additional cruisers which would or would not be available for transportation. Variable costs that would be associated include the additional cost of fuel, uniforms and supplies.

What we do know for a fact is that this will require additional officers to be hired at municipal expense all across this province, so one asks the question: If the government is not going to expand their budgets and if they are limited in terms of what they can obtain from municipal taxpayers, what services that the police forces supply in this province are going to be adversely affected?

Are our police forces going to be told that they should give up on some of their outstanding community programs that are operating, such as school safety, the Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere program and the alcohol and drug prevention programs that our police are actively involved in? Are those the kinds of programs where the decision will be made that they should be cut or severely reduced in order that the police can participate in a manner in which this government is arbitrarily forcing them?

All these considerations have not been fully discussed or fully consulted, nor has the debate in this House fully exposed them on the part of the government.

I regret that my colleagues from the opposite side of the House, the Liberal members from Halton, have not seen fit to participate in this public debate from the point of view of discussing openly the implications of this bill. I, for one, take the issues of courtroom security and general public safety and security very, very seriously.

I would like to close my comments by suggesting that we will be voting against this bill, we would ask that it go to committee for full public consultation and we would hope that this government would start listening before it reacts without any plan, before it reacts without any sense of what priorities there are for Ontario citizens; in this instance, its lack of priority for courtroom security for our judges, for our crown attorneys and, quite frankly, for victims who attend courts, who are quite frequently threat-

ened as a result of the intimidation process that can precede a court hearing.

All those persons require not the support services, the security services that can be supplied by the lay security the member for Sudbury keeps thinking we will be able to fill our courtrooms with. We do not ensure public safety on the cheap; we do not ensure public safety with unqualified persons. That is why this bill is wrong and it is faulty and should be voted down. However, we look forward to meaningful participation in the debate in the months to come.

Mr. Sterling: Mr. Speaker, we are being held here for week upon week, yet we have eight or nine Liberal members here. I would like to know if there is a quorum in the House.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. M. C. Ray) ordered the bells rung.

1516

The Acting Speaker: There is now a quorum and we were entertaining questions or comments on the speech by the member for Burlington South (Mr. Jackson). Are there any questions or comments? If not, are there other participants in the debate?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I did not get a chance to speak much yesterday so I wanted to make sure that I got myself on the record today and made a few comments, especially since a covey of Liberals has now returned to the House and we now have the quorum that is required.

Now and then there are niggling little bills that come along that are there to annoy certain parts of the constituency, that are put out, I guess, just to test how unpopular a government can really make itself, how many bases it can touch in terms of turning off parts of the province which it might normally have considered to be the government's or the administration's friends. This is one of them.

I find incredible this mean-spirited little Bill 187 that is being brought forward by the Attorney General. It is mean-spirited in a Scrooge-like quality. I am not talking about a sort of nasty, overbearingly punitive-style bill. It is a nickel-and-dime, nasty little bill by the Attorney General to somehow shift on to municipalities the cost for security in courthouses.

I have been surprised that as yet there has not been more of a hue and cry in the papers. Perhaps it is because in a place like Metropolitan Toronto, which has already had to deal with security problems in the courthouses through some major crises here, the issue is seen to be dealt with and is not one that affects us as much as it does

smaller towns and cities. But I know when I was in Peterborough just prior to Christmas and saw the coverage there and the anger by local politicians and police people about this kind of action, that it is really regarded as an unnecessarily aggravating piece of legislation for the Attorney General to bring forward. He will learn this to the full when this goes out to committee.

It will be one of the great joys to watch the member for Mississauga North (Mr. Offer) replacing the Attorney General, who will never be present. We know that. He will never attend any of the hearings, but there will be the poor member for Mississauga North and he will be there to hear just how people have felt that this is nasty. This has taken a few extra little pennies out of our pockets. This is saying to us that in our case security should be handled by volunteers if there is going to be a money problem.

It is a kind of "Sterling Pound" Campbell notion of security in our courts. This is a government which is saying, "Here we are, responsible for the administration of justice, appointing the judges, setting up the rules for justice in these courts, yet it's the municipalities that are going to have to pick up the buck for this."

I just wanted to say, as a bit of a précis today, that it may be that the bigger ones, like the failure of what they are doing in the health system, the problems that are going to be out there in auto insurance and the big things may be getting in the headlines, but it is the little ones like this that aggravate constituencies around Ontario that are going to bring these guys down if they do not sharpen up before the next election.

1520

Mr. Harris: I am somewhat disappointed that we are debating this bill. I am disappointed that we have yet another example of this government trying to stiff the municipalities and trying to pass costs off on to the municipalities.

We have seen the overall direction and game plan of this government and of this Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) over the past few years. The first game plan was to substantially increase spending. Last time we saw that was when Pierre Trudeau first came to power in Ottawa. He started spending at double the rate of inflation when times were relatively good. He was able to get away with it for a period of time.

Then the federal government started substantially increasing taxes to be able to pay for it. Then, when the first downturn came, that was when it really caught up. The tax base had been increased so substantially and the base of

spending had been increased so substantially that when the downturn came it was like the old double whammy. That is when the federal government lost total control of fiscal responsibility.

Concerning a massive deficit like the United States has, we have to put it into perspective and realize how scared we should be. Our debt is three times per capita that of the American debt, so it is three times worse from that perspective. Our levels of taxation are substantially higher. We are faced with a double disadvantage there vis-à-vis the United States economy. It shows what a shaky, precarious position we are in.

I say this because it is important to understand why this bill is being brought in. It has nothing to do with policing or courtroom security. It has to do with who is going to pay for it. We see that same thing happening in Ontario. We see a substantial increase in spending: double the rate of inflation each year. We see a substantial increase in taxation to help pay for it. We see the use of the extra dollars that come in by the increased economic activity, the booming economy if you like, all coming in and being spent.

We are approaching that crisis point in Ontario. It is not apparent yet to the average member of the public, as Mr. Trudeau's was not apparent. Everybody thought this guy was wonderful. He must be a magician to be able to deliver us all these programs. Where does he find the money? How can he do it?

Of course, it caught up to the federal government. People realized that indeed serious mistakes and errors were made in the early years. These very serious mistakes and errors that were made in fiscal management and responsibility have been repeated almost identically here in Ontario in 1985-86-87-88 and now as we head into 1989.

Mr. Fleet: You are living in the past.

Mr. Harris: The member, who refuses to get up and speak on behalf of his police force and municipality but prefers to interject to me that I am living in the past, might want to take note of the history of the past, what we can learn from that history and what is going to happen here in Ontario in the future.

Does he want to speak? Go ahead.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I am not sure what he had for lunch, but obviously it was disturbing.

Mr. Harris: I do not know if the member for High Park-Swansea (Mr. Fleet) wants the floor, but I am delighted to yield to him if he would like to speak.

The Acting Speaker: It would be helpful if he took the opportunity at the conclusion of the member's speech to give a two-minute commentary.

Mr. Harris: Clearly, that is the context this government has found itself in fiscally. Those comments are very relevant, because, as I said, this is not a bill about policing or about security; it is a bill about who is going to pay for it. This government recognized in a modest sense that it was heading down a very slippery slope on the fiscal side, and it has some choices to make: Do we try to spend more wisely, do we increase taxes even further or do we try to be sneaky about it and shift some of the burden of expenditures into other areas?

Clearly, this government has embarked on that course. It is a planned, organized strategy which is coming out of the Treasury department. We saw it with lot levies. "How can we cut our share of capital funding for schools? Right now we're paying 75 per cent. Maybe we could cut it to 60 per cent if we give the municipalities the obligation to raise that money under lot levies," which we know will substantially increase the cost of housing. We saw it in a number of other areas. They are exploring every option to shift more costs to the municipalities.

That is what Bill 187 is all about. It is to shift the responsibility and the onus to the municipalities for policing courtrooms and providing courtroom security and security from jail to the courtroom in the community. What is the net impact of that? Since this is really a financial bill, we must look at what is the financial impact.

The municipalities have begun to study it, and I might say they were slow off the mark. When this bill was first introduced they were caught up with all the other things that were being sloughed off on them, like Sunday shopping, like the freezing of unconditional grants, like the Planning Act, some of the areas where the Minister of Municipal Affairs was saying to municipalities, "Look, guys, quite frankly we either can't handle this or don't have the political will to do it, so will you take it off our hands and take the political heat?" When they said no, the government said, "Then we'll legislate it on you and you must do it."

So they were tied up with all of these areas this government was foisting on them and, quite frankly, when it became apparent that the government actually planned to proceed with this bill—it is one thing to introduce these silly things; it is another to proceed with them.

We saw that with the water bill, this great anti-free-trade water bill the Minister of Natural Resources brought in. It was one thing to be silly enough to bring in the bill; it was another to be silly enough to think anybody would buy it. Of course they hurried it up before the federal election and it was so poorly drafted that it became a bill to facilitate the sale of water as opposed to restricting it.

It is another thing after the federal election was over, after the silliness has been pointed out, after it has been acknowledged that it was a silly political ploy that did not work because of sloppy draftsmanship and a minister who did not take time to read it before he brought it into the House; after all of that the government decided to proceed with it, which nobody could believe. Anybody who sat here in the House and watched the minister embarrass himself and his party earlier this week while they actually proceeded with it, is really shaking his head saying, "What are people doing, sitting here with this silly nonsense?"

Municipalities thought: "They're not silly enough to proceed with this. They're not that stupid." So they did not get ready and they were slow getting off the mark. Now the municipalities realize that the government is that stupid, that it does think it can continue to slough things off on to the municipal taxpayer and really does not seem to care about our ability to fight crime in the streets, about our ability to attack the drug problem, which is of epidemic proportions in this country.

Yes, they are that silly. They are now going to ask us to pick up the cost of policing provincial prisoners and provide security for provincial courthouses.

1530

What is that cost? The estimates from the police chiefs across this province and for the municipalities that are responsible for collecting the taxes and approving their budgets are about \$10 a person. In the city of North Bay of some 50,000 people, that is \$500,000. Independently, the city of Sarnia came up with \$500,000, approximately \$10 a person. Nobody knows for sure. It might be \$9; it might be \$15.

Independently, they have tried to analyse what indeed it will cost and they have arrived at somewhere around this \$10 figure. I understand in Metropolitan Toronto it is somewhere in around \$14 million to \$17 million, which would fit roughly into that category.

Where are they going to get the money from? Where is the city of North Bay going to get the extra \$500,000?

We asked that of the minister, the Attorney General and some others. We thought if we exposed the silliness that the government would say, "Yes, that is just one of that list of silly things and it will go away and die on the order paper." When we asked those questions to expose this, we got one answer back: "The former Conservative government gave \$3 a head to municipalities to cover all this some four years ago. That is how we are going to cover it."

If the former Conservative government gave \$3 a head and expected that this is what the municipalities and the local police forces were going to provide, surely one would have expected us to ask them to do it. If, on the other hand, there was a sense that \$3 a head would dramatically assist with the extra cost of the Young Offenders Act, with some of the transportation of prisoners that takes place now—and I will tell you that in the city of North Bay two officers go back and forth to Sudbury virtually every day—that \$3 a head probably is not enough even to cover those costs.

But I applaud the former government for recognizing that the Young Offenders Act placed an extra burden on local police forces. We did not want that to impact on their ability to carry out their other police duties.

I use the city of North Bay as an example. Those who live in a city of a different size should just remember the figure of \$10 a head and recognize what that does to their police force.

That is the only answer we have had from the government. It has said, "Somehow or other we think the former government intended this \$3 to cover the extra costs associated with the Young Offenders Act and everything else that we dream up in the future."

We were removed from government as we started to get an experience background, and I think the former government was pretty good at saying: "We are going to have to estimate. Nobody knows for sure. We will provide \$3 a head. Let's see what happens. You can trust us. If it costs more, we are prepared to talk with you. If it is less, we know you will talk with us."

Clearly the municipalities accepted that in the spirit that, historically, the provincial government has always dealt fairly with them. Why are they upset now? Because that is not what is happening.

Since 1985 something dramatically different took place in this province in relationships between the government of Ontario and the municipalities. It took place with hospitals; with doctors; with virtually every professional group;

with school boards. It is not sitting down and working out solutions. It is a confrontation.

It is the attitude, "We have 94 seats and I am Premier; I can do what the hell I want." It can get away with it for a while; Mr. Trudeau got away with it for a while. But it catches up, and it is beginning to catch up to this government right now. This bill is a bill that is very symbolic of this government's attitude and how, in fact, this government plans to proceed in a confrontational way, not in a co-operative way.

Many of the services we provide, whether it be education, health care, policing, the attack on our severe drug problem or our crime rate, require co-operation. They require the crown, the police, the municipalities, the Ontario Provincial Police, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the local police to co-operate. They require a great deal of co-operation.

When you hit people over the head, when you punch them in the mouth, normally the immediate reaction to that is not: "Oh, palsy-walsy, you just punched me in the mouth. Let's you and I co-operatively go out and solve some problem." It does not work that way in life.

Good government is about treating people fairly. It is about working co-operatively. It is about how we get the best out of every individual, how we make that individual feel comfortable, wanting to do his very best. Companies operate that way. A good company treats its employees fairly, and those employees want to do the best they can for that company. They get more productivity out of it. It pays dividends and it pays results.

So this confrontational approach is wrong. It clearly, cumulatively, is going to grind this province to a halt. It is going to put this province into a very severe economic problem. It is going to place this province in a position of far less competitiveness. This bill is one of those examples.

What does \$500,000 mean to the city of North Bay? How many police officers is \$500,000? I suggest that probably with infrastructure and whatnot, the cost of maintaining an officer must be closer to \$50,000. So that is 10 officers, 10 people required to replace what was a provincial responsibility, to police provincial buildings, to look after provincial prisoners. That is \$500,000 to the city of North Bay, 10 officers removed from the street.

We had a question from one of the Liberal backbenchers today. Speeding seems to be a problem. There seems to be a laxity in enforcement. Maybe we should have more fines. If you cannot

catch them, what difference does it make what the fines are? There will be 10 fewer officers to be involved in traffic, 10 fewer officers to be involved in the Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere program.

There is a problem of drinking and driving on which, quite frankly, this House and all three parties have worked in a very nonpartisan way. In my experience, in my eight years here when we were in government and in opposition, I do not think I have seen an issue where all parties encouraged the government to do more and applauded any government initiative more so than to fight impaired driving.

Ten fewer officers. This is just in the city of North Bay. The city of North Bay is 50,000. The province, I guess, is about 10 million. We can multiply that across this province. I have not done that yet. If somebody does that for me, I will tell the House how many officers are going to be removed. How many is that? To divide 50,000 into 10 million; that is 20 per each million, so that would be 200 times 10.

That would be 2,000 officers, roughly, across this province who will not be fighting crime, who will not be fighting rape, who will not be fighting murder, who will not be fighting the drug problem across this province. Those are the dollars. That is the impact that the municipalities talk about. Some may dispute those figures.

Mr. Fleet: Almost anybody.

Mr. Harris: Every member of the council of the city of North Bay condemned this move. They sent a resolution to the minister saying, "We condemn it." The chairman of the police commission, the top Liberal in North Bay, George Valin, who has a long history of Liberal family—he is related to former Liberal members and every one of his partners is a judge now, appointed by Trudeau and other Liberals—condemned this government and said, "It's wrong."

So do not look at me and say this is a Conservative partisan speech. I am speaking on behalf of the municipalities. Quite frankly, as an MPP, I am embarrassed that some other MPPs, regardless of their political stripe, are not speaking on behalf of their police forces, are not standing up and speaking on behalf of their municipalities, regardless of which party they are in. Surely they would want to put on the record today their concerns for the additional costs that are going to be placed on their municipalities across this province.

Here is something. Barrie estimates \$306,000. That probably only works out to about an additional \$8 or \$9 a person. For Cobourg it is \$250,000; Collingwood \$133,000; Durham \$2 million; Lindsay \$40,000; Metropolitan Toronto \$16.8 million; Orillia \$70,000; Peel region \$572,000; Peterborough \$204,000; Port Hope \$12,000, and York region \$1.1 million. I guess it depends on how many courthouses they have in their area.

Let me talk specifically about one aspect of this bill. I am assuming, the way the government has operated in the past, that the Premier and the minister are going to go to their caucus when members raise questions next Tuesday and ask: "Was Harris right? Is my police chief right? Are all my councils right? Is every member of my council right? Is every member of my police commission right? Should I be asking some questions?"

They are going to tell the caucus: "Look, we have 94 seats. Trust us. We're going to dump on them one more time. It's important for the Treasurer to have more flexibility. It's important that he have this extra money, this cost-saving money, and that we shove that on to the municipality. Trust us. It's two years from now. I know what your first priority is. It's not your council or your police primarily. It's getting re-elected. Trust us. Two years from now we'll come out with some new programs. The people of Ontario will buy it again and we will get you re-elected."

That will be the answer in caucus. I am assuming that will be the answer and I am assuming that Liberal members will buy it one more time and that this probably at some point will become law.

I want to point out to the minister specifically one thing that does not make any sense to the city of North Bay, and I am sure to other municipalities. In the city of North Bay there is the district courthouse. There is a Nipissing district courthouse. It serves the whole district of Nipissing. It serves countless municipalities and unorganized territories. There is also a jail in the city of North Bay. It serves a far-reaching area.

The taxpayers in North Bay do not understand why they are going to be asked to pick up the total cost for policing a provincial building used to serve clients from the whole district. They do not understand—even if the government goes ahead with this and gets away with the principle of shifting the cost to municipalities—why one municipality, because the courthouse happens to

be in their municipality, is being asked to pick up the total cost.

That is why provincial buildings should be provincial responsibilities. For a city of North Bay building, North Bay should pay. Sturgeon Falls has a building and they should pay. If a region has a building, the region should pay. If the region decides to have a very elaborate building, those taxpayers in that region will pay. The rest of the taxpayers should not pay. But when the province has a building the province should pay.

Courthouse security clearly is a provincial responsibility. I say to the government that if it wants the local municipalities, the local police forces, to help the province in providing courtroom security, then the government owes them the courtesy of sitting down and negotiating with them and arriving at something that both sides will be agreeable to.

They are willing to go the extra mile. They would be willing to sit down with this province and say: "Yes, we always try to help out people who cannot seem to do things on their own. If you can't run this provincially, if your provincial budget for police cannot get through the Treasurer and the Management Board, if you want to pull officers off of this and put them somewhere else because you cannot commit the dollars yourself, we will try and help you."

But the government must negotiate with them. It cannot hit them over the head and, with a fell swoop, pass a piece of legislation that says: "Yes, it's a provincial building. Yes, the court system is a provincial responsibility. Yes, jails are a provincial responsibility. Yes, moving prisoners back and forth to these is a provincial responsibility. But we want you to pay for it." The government cannot do that. That is not fair, that is not right, and even though the government has got away with doing it time and time again, cumulatively, it is going to catch up to the government.

I ask government members now to reconsider this scheme to reduce the cost to the Treasury and shift it to the municipalities. I ask them to reconsider that. If there is some sense that there can be some cost savings by having somebody else do this job for them, then they should sit down and negotiate with the municipal police forces and with the municipalities that are responsible for their budgets and see if they can arrive at a solution. But they do not have the right, in my view, to take that responsibility and shift it to the municipalities holus-bolus, with no negotiation, without any consideration.

We are totally opposed to this bill. We will be voting against this bill. I call on those members who have police forces in their areas to show the police chiefs, the police commissions, the mayors and reeves, the municipal people the respect that I believe they deserve; to meet with them, hear their views, hear what they have to say and have the courage to bring that forward. If members think it will hurt their political careers and they are embarrassed to do it publicly, they should have the courage to at least do it in caucus. I do not have any sense that is taking place right now.

In addition to being opposed to this bill, since this government will not have the courtesy and the courage to go and meet with municipalities, my party and the New Democratic Party have insisted that this piece of legislation go to a standing committee. We have insisted that the standing committee hold hearings so that through the legislative process—because the minister will not do it—we can hear directly from the municipalities and the police chiefs the dramatic effect this bill will have on their budgets and on their ability to carry out their functions of police work at a time when crime, the drug problem, is getting increasingly worse at a time when they are fighting soft judges. I say that without remorse and I say that openly and publicly.

The judicial system in this province is deteriorating. When we see somebody charged with selling and dealing in crack getting a matter of days in jail, the police are being hampered. It is a difficult time for them as it is.

So we will insist, since the government will not do it on its own, since the minister will not allow the input and will not sit down and negotiate, we will at least provide the opportunity for the police chiefs and the municipalities to come before a legislative committee to tell the government first hand what it will mean in North Bay, Barrie, Orillia, Sarnia, Mississauga, Ottawa and—where am I going this week?—Kingston. Clearly, it will be important for us to provide that opportunity, because the government will not do it.

1550

Finally, Mr. Speaker, or Mr. Deputy Deputy Speaker—I see that even the Speakers do not want to sit around here long enough, we have to find someone else to fill the chair. I understand, though, and I am sympathetic to their problem. I say to you, Mr. Acting Speaker, that the other severe problem we have is that, with the apparent course and direction that this Legislature is proceeding in, the fact of the

matter is it appears as though these hearings will now not be able to take place until the summer.

The government may want that; that may be its way of saying: "We've got some dogs of legislation sitting around on the books. Even though we look like fumbling idiots and don't know how to run the House, let's do this for a while and maybe we can get rid of some of these dog bills." Maybe that is the strategy, I do not know. I cannot think of any other reason for the way the government House leader, the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway), and the Premier are attempting to run this House.

On this bill, I say that we are totally opposed. We will force the government to hear from the public, since it will not do it on its own. I hope through that process the government will realize this is not the way to deal with municipalities. This is not the way to deal with police forces across this province.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Polsinelli): Any questions or comments? No questions or comments. Do any other members wish to participate in the debate? No other members. Does the parliamentary assistant wish to reply?

Mr. Offer: Very much, Mr. Speaker; it is my pleasure to reply. I am going to take a different tack from some of the previous speakers. I want to address my comments to the bill before the House. I think that might be a change of pace.

The first item or issue I want to address is with respect to committee. Let me make no mistake about it: We are looking forward to the committee hearings. We understand that this legislation is going to be referred to a standing committee of the Legislature, so that we can afford those who wish to have input into this legislation the opportunity to do so, and we look forward and have looked forward to that for some time.

I address my comments in large part to numerous members of the third party who have spoken on this matter, because this legislation does conform to the policy announced in 1985 by the then Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable Dennis Timbrell, under which municipalities responsible for policing have been receiving an additional \$3 per household in provincial grants to recognize the municipality's role in providing protective services at court facilities.

I find it strange indeed that so many—

Mr. Mahoney: Passing strange.

Mr. Offer: The member for Mississauga West corrects me by saying it should be passing strange—I stand corrected—that the members of the third party have so quickly forgotten that

statement made by the then Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. I think it may bear some repeating, so that they might be reminded. It just so happens, as coincidence would have it, that I have a copy of that statement.

Mr. Beer: Would you read it to us, please?

Mr. Offer: I am asked to read it. Maybe I shall quote. This is from the then Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable Dennis Timbrell, who stated in March 1985:

"I am pleased at this time to provide the details of the program for 1985, particularly a \$3 per household increase in the police per household grant. This means that the grant rate for those municipalities providing their own policing in 1985 will be \$50 per household.

"The increased police grant rate will assist municipalities with some of the more recent additional costs that they have experienced in fulfilling their responsibilities for the provision of protective services."

It goes on to say:

"In the past few years, in response to specific problems, court security payments have been made on an ad hoc basis by the Ministry of the Attorney General to a few municipalities, and with increased financial pressures at the municipal level we have been receiving many requests from mayors and chiefs of police to extend funding to provide uniformed police in the courts and to assist in the transfer and supervision of prisoners.

"As many of you know, court security has become a special issue in major urban centres. In 1984, the Attorney General received requests for funding from many municipalities. Because of the growing number of requests, our ministry will incorporate funds for these purposes into the police per household grant. This is a permanent solution to what has been an increasing problem and will replace the special payments which have been made to a limited number of municipalities."

This bill before the House specifically removes a confusion which has existed since 1985 and clarifies that, in line with the statement in 1985, court security rests with the municipal police forces. It is interesting that even in the news release of March 7, 1985, it goes on to state, "In the past few years, in response to specific problems, court security payments have been made on an ad hoc basis." It states that because of the growing number of requests, the then Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing will incorporate funds for these purposes into the

police per household grant as a permanent solution to what has been an increasing problem.

The statements made by the Conservative members are surprising to me, because it was they who initiated this matter in 1985 and we have clarified the matter so that there will be no confusion with respect to the whole issue of court security in this province.

I would like to go on to the issue that was brought forward on a number of occasions by speakers dealing with this legislation and its impact in forcing municipal police forces to reduce other services they provide to their communities. I specifically bring forward this issue because this is not the bill before the House. I must say that even the member for Wentworth East (Ms. Collins) has brought this matter to my attention.

This legislation makes it clear that police forces have the responsibility for court security. This bill does not seek to direct the police on how that responsibility will be met. Like other policing functions, the police can decide, in the context of all their responsibilities, the number and type of personnel that will be used to meet a specific responsibility.

This legislation does not say that police must have a first-class constable in every courtroom in every courthouse throughout the province. It does say that the decision on how any particular courthouse is to be secured remains within the discretion of the municipal police force. It is their decision and it is their particular expertise that will finally make that decision.

I should also like to discuss a further point, again dealing specifically with the bill—and I would like to deal specifically with the bill, not like so many of the prior statements—and that is why do we not provide court security. Why is court security not the responsibility of a provincial police force operating, for instance, under the Ministry of the Attorney General?

1600

I think that is an important issue. I would like to address that issue by stating that the creation of a separate police force to look after court security would be a very inefficient way of providing the service. It would necessitate the creation of an entirely new administrative structure to perform one function, when existing police forces currently have that necessary administrative structure and in fact have been providing the service in most locations where court proceedings are conducted now.

In addition, and I think this is extremely crucial, a separate police force would not be able

to provide an efficient court security service in many smaller communities. In many locations, court proceedings are not conducted every day of the week. In these communities, it would be difficult to justify the posting of staff from a separate specialized court security police force.

It does make much more sense for the local police force to provide the court security as part of its general duty. It is the local police force that has a particular understanding of the type of cases that are coming before the court in terms of how they must react to make certain the courthouse is secure. It is only the municipal police forces that do have that particular degree of knowledge.

Some comment has been made with respect to the \$3 per household grant. Suffice it to say that these grants have been paid to the municipalities on the number of households in that municipality and that they have been paid each year since 1985 and have formed part of the unconditional grant since 1985. It was not a one-time payment. It is incorporated into those grants and has been incorporated since 1985, and those payments have been made since 1985.

In closing, the principle of this bill is that the security of the court remains with the municipal police forces. They are better able and better equipped to maintain that type of adequate level of security, to the person and to the property, in a courthouse in this province.

I believe this legislation will promote effective security for Ontario residents involved in court proceedings and I hope it receives the support of this House.

The Acting Speaker: That concludes the debate on this motion.

Mr. Scott has moved second reading of Bill 187. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the House leaders and the whips have agreed to stack the votes until 5:45 p.m.

The Acting Speaker: In my opinion the ayes have it. Five or more having risen in their seats, there will be a division on this question.

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: Mr. Speaker, as I stated, it is my understanding that the House leaders and the whips have agreed to stack the vote until 5:45 p.m.

Vote stacked.

LAW SOCIETY AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Offer moved, on behalf of Hon. Mr. Scott, second reading of Bill 203, An Act to

amend certain Acts as they relate to the Law Society.

Mr. Offer: The enactment of this bill would extend the right to practise law in this province to all permanent residents and to Canadian citizens who meet the normal professional standards.

At the present time, the Law Society Act provides that only Canadian citizens or British subjects may practise law in Ontario. However, as of July 1, 1989, as a result of the proclamation of an amendment to the Law Society Act under the Equality Rights Statute Law Amendment Act of 1986, only Canadian citizens will be entitled to practise law in Ontario. The provisions granting a special privilege to British subjects to practise law will be repealed as of that date.

As a result of this bill, lawyers who are not British subjects will not have to become Canadian citizens in order to continue practising law; they need only be permanent residents. Furthermore, all persons who become permanent residents of Canada, regardless of their country of origin, will be equally entitled to qualify as lawyers in our province.

Enactment of this legislation is now even more important in light of the February 2 decision in the Supreme Court of Canada in the Andrews case. That is a case against the Law Society of British Columbia, and a majority of the court held that the citizenship requirement for lawyers under British Columbia law violated the equality rights provision of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and was unconstitutional. The court stated that a law that bars an entire class of people from employment solely on the ground of lack of citizenship is clearly an infringement of their rights and must be struck down.

In light of this decision and its direct application to Ontario's Law Society Act, I trust that the House will proceed without delay to enact this legislation.

Mr. Hampton: I want to indicate that our party will be supporting this bill. The principle that is enshrined in it is one that is long overdue, and we would have thought that it would have been handled some time ago. We would like to see it be passed now so that this kind of case does not go on to the Supreme Court of Canada and take up a lot of valuable court time deciding something that, as I say, should have been decided some time ago. We are in favour of it; let's get on with it.

Mr. Sterling: I would only like to add that I associate myself with the comments made by both the parliamentary assistant to the Attorney General and my colleague from the New

Democratic Party. I think this shows that the opposition parties are quite willing to proceed with legislation that is reasonable and timely and we are willing to do it with little debate. Therefore, I would only hope that the government House leader would take this as an indication of our goodwill in dealing with other matters before this House. I would indicate that our party is most happy to support this piece of legislation.

The Acting Speaker: Would the parliamentary assistant to the Attorney General care to wrap up the debate?

Mr. Offer: Yes, I have just a few notes. I would like to thank the members of the opposition and third party for their support. I am always pleased to be the recipient of their goodwill.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for third reading.

1610

TRESPASS TO PROPERTY AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Offer moved, on behalf of Hon. Mr. Scott, second reading of Bill 149, An Act to amend the Trespass to Property Act.

Mr. Offer: This bill is designed to limit the absolute discretion of an occupier of premises to which the public is ordinarily admitted, such as shopping centres and parks. It does so to assure that people are not excluded because they are young or members of minorities. In doing this, it follows the recommendation of the Anand Task Force on the Law concerning Trespass to Publicly Used Property as it Affects Youth and Minorities.

It is also done to prevent the Trespass to Property Act from being used to prohibit the reasonable distribution, in inoffensive ways, of information related to, for instance, a labour dispute between an employer whose premises are located in a mall and its employees.

The bill recognizes that while all forms of public and private property deserve protection by trespass legislation, the absolute discretion to exclude anyone from a home or a farm should not apply to places the public is invited to use.

For many communities throughout Ontario, shopping centres have become the community meeting place. Libraries, employment offices, health and social services have joined restaurants and other commercial operations as tenants of shopping malls. The shopping mall has in many ways become a village square. This bill will

remove the absolute discretion to exclude, but will still allow property owners of premises used by the public to protect themselves, their tenants and their customers against inappropriate behaviour.

Its requirements are not severe. It requires the operator to give a valid reason for asking someone to leave the premises or not to return to the premises. That reason can be conduct that is not compatible with the public's use of the premises or the reason may be that the person has breached one of the occupier's rules.

In addition, the bill limits to 30 days the period an occupier of publicly used property can exclude an entrant who has behaved improperly. Thus the bill would put to an end the situation where, and this is the case, people have been banned for life from a facility. By retaining the occupier's right to bar a person, but limiting it to 30 days, the interests of the occupiers and entrants will be served without overuse of the criminal justice system.

Since the introduction of the bill in June 1988, the ministry has consulted with many individuals and groups of persons who would be affected by the legislation. The responsible attitude taken by everyone consulted is, to my mind, heartening. We believe this better balance between the rights and interests of owners and entrants can be achieved without creating enforcement problems for those who are now managing in a responsible way.

One point to be made is that the bill states it will come into force January 1, 1989. Before enactment it will be necessary to amend that date and provide another that will give occupiers of publicly used premises an opportunity to prepare for the change.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. M. C. Ray): Are there any comments or questions?

Mr. Sterling: I would like to ask the parliamentary assistant to the Attorney General, the member for Mississauga North (Mr. Offer), as I read this piece of legislation, about the definition, "premises used by public" means premises to which the public is ordinarily admitted, whether a fee is charged for admission or not, and whose occupier is...any other person, if the public is admitted for the occupier's economic benefit."

I read from this that it would cover any retail store in Ontario because they invite the public in. Therefore, this law would not only apply to large shopping centres but would also apply to mom-and-pop grocery stores at the corner in a community neighbourhood and would apply to

every other small business in Ontario. I would just like him to confirm that is a correct interpretation.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I have a couple of questions I would like to ask for clarification on at the same time.

One is, how does it relate to school property, for example, suspicious looking characters hanging around school yards? Is there any protection for the children? Give an answer on that.

On rules of conduct, the owners of public premises can post rules of conduct for the premises. Any behaviour that is not posted will automatically be assumed permissible. Does that mean that if an owner forgets to put on a notice that you cannot take money out of the till, then it is permissible? What type of conduct are we talking about?

The government is putting the reverse onus. It is saying the owner of a premises or the owner of a small store has to tell individuals what they can or cannot do in that store. I think the government is creating a major problem. Surely, common sense would indicate that if a person did not act properly in a store, for example, the owner could ask him to leave without contravening any provincial legislation.

I am not sure what the government means, that owners have to post rules of conduct for the premises. Maybe the parliamentary assistant could explain that.

Mr. Mackenzie: The bill, as I understand it, sets out reasonable use for rules for a quasi-public property, but the key rule states that if your conduct in the quasi-public property "is not compatible with the public's use of the premises" or "contravenes any of the occupier's reasonable rules," you are guilty of an offence for which you can be fined and removed from the property for 30 days.

The question I have for the parliamentary assistant is, how does this apply in terms of a union organizing a store in a public mall, for example, and leafletting for purposes of organizing in that mall? The parliamentary assistant will understand that a 30-day removal can certainly put the boots to an organizing effort.

What happens in terms of citizens who want to demonstrate on the basis of their opposition to apartheid? What happens to citizens who may want to raise in a public mall an issue like cruise missile testing in Canada? How does this bill affect these categories of events? Does it really open it up, as I think I heard the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara) say when I asked him the same thing in the Ministry of Labour estimates

just recently, and make the centre of that mall the same as any downtown street in a small Ontario town? Or would those matters I raised be subject to removal or action by the owners, being reasons that are not compatible with his lease?

The Acting Speaker: Does the parliamentary assistant care to respond now?

Mr. Offer: If I can remember those questions.

Mr. Sterling: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: We in our party would agree to allow the parliamentary assistant more than the two minutes to respond. I think there would be unanimous consent.

Some hon. members: No, You don't have unanimous consent.

The Acting Speaker: If I may, the parliamentary assistant will have unlimited time in his reply to all the speeches to respond to any questions he is unable to answer now within the two minutes.

1620

Mr. Breaugh: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I think the record should show that the members asked the parliamentary assistant some pretty fundamental questions to expedite the debate. The people who refused to give unanimous consent so we could do that were the government members. That is a rather unusual event.

The Acting Speaker: The parliamentary assistant has the floor.

Mr. Offer: I would be more than happy to respond to the questions, if I may. Thank you very much.

Mr. Black: With as much time as you want.

Mr. Offer: First, to the specific question from the member for Carleton (Mr. Sterling), yes, the bill would apply to the facilities he has brought forward.

To the member for Wellington (Mr. J. M. Johnson), it is my impression it would not apply to the school situation.

To the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie), it was in my opening statement that the amendments to this legislation would indeed allow reasonable distribution in inoffensive ways of, for instance, information related to a labour dispute between an employer, whose premises happened to be located in a mall, and his employees. This would take away the absolute discretion of the owner, as it is currently, to say to somebody that he must leave on the basis of the private property aspect. This would allow—

The Acting Speaker: Order. Are there any other participants in the debate?

Mr. Fleet: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker: At this time, in the light of the partial answer given so far, I am prepared to allow the parliamentary assistant to answer fully the other questions raised by members of the opposition.

The Acting Speaker: Are there any other participants in this debate?

Mr. Fleet: I raised a point of order. I will seek unanimous consent if that is what is required.

The Acting Speaker: You do not have authority to give consent on behalf of all members, and the question has previously been decided.

Mr. Fleet: I am entitled to seek unanimous consent.

Mr. Breaugh: Not now, you're not. You screwed it up.

Mr. Fleet: May I seek it? I am seeking it now. Surely I am entitled to ask for it.

Mr. Breaugh: You have both feet in there now.

Mr. Fleet: Well, I tried to help you guys. You can't complain.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. The search has already been made for unanimous consent. Are there any other participants in the debate?

Mr. Hampton: We would have appreciated a full answer from the parliamentary assistant to the Attorney General, but since members of his own party do not want him to answer, I will go on at length and then he will have a chance to answer later.

I want to get on the record the fact that our party will be supporting this legislation because we think it is long overdue. However, in saying that we are going to support it, I also want to take the time to delineate the number of ways it needs to be amended and the number of possible problems that can arise with this legislation.

I hope the government will listen and accept some of the amendments we would like to place, because we think it can become a better piece of legislation. I am going to quote back some of the things the Attorney General's own task force said to the government, some of which I do not find in the bill.

The first comment we would like to make is that perhaps the parliamentary assistant to the Attorney General should go back and look at the recommendations made by his own task force in order to make this bill a better bill.

When the government appointed the Task Force on the Law concerning Trespass to

Publicly Used Property as it Affects Youth and Minorities, Raj Anand, who was the principal member of the task force at that time, talked to a number of user groups. The user groups pointed out at length the problems they were encountering in terms of utilizing or using shopping malls in terms, first of all, of security guards, and second, of the police.

We think there is a serious issue here because one of the things that many user groups, particularly minority groups and young people, pointed out was that very often there were confrontations with the police, because as the parliamentary assistant knows, the police are often called in to assist the property owner in his or her assertion of property rights.

What often happened was that there was immediately the identification that the police were on the side of the property owner, no matter how unreasonable the property owner's rules or the property owner's behaviour might have been towards young people or towards minority groups. The need for legislation is certainly there.

In speaking of some of the groups that found problems with the Trespass to Property Act as it applied to shopping malls and other publicly used private property, there are some very telling examples that were provided. The Children's Aid Society of Metropolitan Toronto, for instance, brought forward a number of young people. I will just use one example. The society found that black West Indian youths and punk rock or street kids seemed to experience more harassment, regardless of their behaviour, than did other groups.

The survey concluded: "Discrimination...can be observed in a variety of ways: singling out particular minority individuals or groups while ignoring dominant culture members; focusing on youths disproportionately over other age groups; choosing adolescents sporting counter-culture fashions while overlooking more conservatively dressed youths; identifying economically disadvantaged persons for restriction before addressing more prosperous individuals; administering different enforcement penalties to separate violators for similar infractions of the law."

The examples provided were pretty telling examples. One of the things that was brought out was that the way the legislation inevitably brought the police into the matter and too often the police were identified as being solely and strictly on the side of the property owner, and as being against minority groups or young people in some of these circumstances.

The government may feel it has gone some way with this bill in addressing those kinds of problems. I merely want to point out that the way the bill is written, I think will not solve the problem. It will probably lead to a never-ending chain of court cases to decide what some of the vague language means. I want to refer to the bill because I think it is quite useful to look at some of the wording in the bill.

For example, section 1b, "Members of the public are entitled to enter and remain on premises used by the public, subject to subsection 1c(1) (conduct incompatible with the public's use, contravention of rules)... (refusal to leave)... (re-entry after notice)...."

What is meant by "conduct incompatible with the public's use." Who is going to define that? One of the things that comes out of Mr. Anand's report is that minority groups and different social groups, whether they be peace activists, consumer activists, trade union groups or identifiable minorities have a very different definition of what is compatible with public use than the owners of shopping malls often have. That was the key problem. By simply using the words "conduct...not compatible with the public's use," it seems to me that the government is throwing this problem up in the air again and basically throwing it into the hands of the court. The words "incompatible with public use" seem to me to be far too wide open.

1630

If I can, at this time I would like to suggest language that might be a little more appropriate in this case. The language I would suggest would be getting rid of the words "not compatible" and considering something like "conflicts with" or "directly conflicts with the public's use." The mall owner may say, "The primary use of this property is for citizens to come here and shop" or "to take part in the economic marketplace." If that is the mall owner's definition of the primary public use of the property and you have a peace group which wants to demonstrate against the cruise missile testing, or a group which may want to demonstrate against apartheid or another group which may want to demonstrate against a particular social cause, they may from time to time get in the way of shoppers or create a crowded situation in the shopping mall, right away you have a possible argument that their conduct is incompatible with the primary use of the property, for shopping. Right away you are into that when you use the simple words "not compatible."

We would urge the government to get rid of the words "not compatible" and to put in language which suggests that the other use of the property has to directly conflict with public use in order to be outside of the owner's rules or to warrant some sort of exclusion from the property.

I can only emphasize that point, that simply in using the language "not compatible with," the government is asking for a fight on almost every other kind of use, whether it be leafletting for political purposes or whether it be a consumer group perhaps demonstrating in the mall against the behaviour or the public conduct or private conduct of one of the stores, or a group, as I say, demonstrating or picketing regarding some other public issue. We think that the government is into a conflict and right away it is going to invite court analysis and court scrutiny of what the act means. In that sense, we do not think they are solving a problem; they are probably enlarging the problem.

Occupiers' rules: There is a section that deals with occupiers' rules and the need for reasonable occupiers' rules. Once again, if the occupier posts a set of rules saying, "These are the rules, our interpretation of the reasonable rules for the use of this public property," or this quasi-public property, or publicly used private property, again you are going to run into a situation, as Mr. Anand pointed out when he went to speak, first of all, to the owner groups and then to the user groups in terms of shopping malls. He said they had a very different definition of what was reasonable use and what were reasonable rules.

Again, we think that by putting in this section on reasonable use and leaving it as wide open as it has, the government is inviting a conflict to occur. They are not going to get much agreement from user groups and owner groups on what are reasonable rules, and if they are going to leave it up to the court in every case to decide what reasonable rules of use are, again I can only suggest that they are going to create more of a problem than already exists.

My colleague the member for Hamilton East will make some comments later regarding the way in which this bill may affect the legitimate undertakings of trade unions. Despite the answer given by the parliamentary assistant, we are not at all confident that this bill will not infringe on the legitimate rights of trade unions to conduct organizing campaigns, to conduct a picketing campaign, to conduct a public information campaign, such as an attempt to get shoppers to avoid shopping at a given store which may have particular antilabour habits or particular conduct

which the labour union might find reprehensible. That conduct might be, for example, the fact that the store may have investments in South Africa through subsidiaries or through a sister or brother corporation, or may be conducting itself somewhere else in Ontario and in Canada in an inappropriate way.

Based on our reading of the bill, we feel that those kinds of activities on the part of trade unions would be somewhat restricted by the language that is given in this bill, and the member for Hamilton East will want to say something more about that.

In that vein, I want to refer again briefly to comments made by Raj Anand in his task force report. One that I think is very telling in this regard is the comment that, generally in the past, the owners of shopping malls and also the security arrangements—whatever the security personnel may be—have exhibited a tendency to insist that only narrow shopping activities are the legitimate activities in shopping malls. If one's behaviour is in any way outside of that narrow definition, in the way that one either looks or conducts oneself, it is outside the rules. That has been the prevalent attitude on the part of owners, as Mr. Anand points out, and on the part of security agencies, which very often supervise the shopping malls.

If that is the case, I can only say that someone who is in a shopping mall and who is demonstrating on a given social issue, whether it be the peace movement or a given poverty question, or some other social activity question, will definitely appear to be different from and out of sorts with anybody who is coming into the mall to do shopping. That is apparent from what Mr. Anand had to say.

If the government is still leaving this open to the simple words "not compatible with the usual use of the property," or if it is leaving it open to the owners of the property to develop rules, I say again we are into a conflict situation and this bill will have done nothing.

I want to deal briefly with the 30-day limit, because again one of the sections in the act states that you can impose a 30-day ban on someone. Let's go back to the example with Radio Shack stores in the late 1970s and early 1980s when a number of trade unions were attempting to organize the Radio Shack operations in Ontario. Radio Shack simply decided, at the behest, I understand, of the corporate head offices in Texas, that they were going to defy the legitimate interests of their employees to organize into a trade union.

1640

Let's assume we have that situation. One of the things the trade unions involved tried to do—and I understand there were other organizations involved as well, women's groups and so on—was to organize a boycott of Radio Shack stores. Just assume you have a situation with a Radio Shack store in a shopping mall and you have members of the trade union and former employees or current employees who are on strike who are attempting to leaflet to convince people not to shop at the Radio Shack store.

Here you have a Radio Shack outlet and presumably all the other stores operating in the mall saying: "The primary use of this mall is as a shopping place, a marketplace. Anybody who wants to interrupt that is interfering with the usual use of the property, the primary use of the property, the proper use of the property, and therefore we want them out."

Let's assume you get down to the 30-day ban situation. I do not think the parliamentary assistant to the Attorney General has to use a lot of imagination to understand that if a 30-day ban can be imposed on those groups under this act, within that 30-day period you can wreck any prospect of carrying on a successful boycott. I think he has to look again at the 30-day limit.

I think the same thing can apply, for example, if you have an enterprise in a shopping mall which has an employment policy which is, let us say, particularly hard on women; they insist on employing women only on a part-time basis and only for the most minimum of wages and no benefits. So you have a group of women that wants to demonstrate. The easy availability of the 30-day ban can obviously destroy the impact of any sort of demonstration.

These demonstrations need only be the peaceful and otherwise organized effort to impart information to shoppers. When I say a demonstration, I do not mean you are going to barricade the doors of the shop. It could simply mean walking back and forth in front of the door in an effort to slow people down before they enter and handing them a leaflet saying, "Please don't shop at Radio Shack," for example, or "Please don't shop at Store X" because of their employment policies or because of the fact that they have investments in South Africa or because of a number of reasons.

I would suggest again that the easy availability of the 30-day limit, coupled with the "not compatible" language and the owner's capacity to make rules of use, means that many of these legitimate undertakings, legitimate behaviour,

legitimate activities on the part of these kinds of groups can and will be frustrated. So, for our part, we would urge that the government take a look at some of the specific language I have referred to.

As I said earlier, it is very clear that the old Trespass to Property Act is inappropriate for what has now become known as quasi-public property or property that is privately owned but otherwise publicly used. It is very clear that the old act just does not fit any more.

However, as I say, some of the language in the new act creates such uncertainties and can be construed to be so restrictive that I really do not think it will do much. In fact, I think it may make the matter worse in the sense that if you are a socially active organization, a trade union, you may find yourself having to go to court numerous times to decide exactly what this act means. And after having gone to court numerous times, you may wind up with decisions that are very unfavourable even if you wind up with some decisions that are favourable to your cause in the end. As favourable as the parliamentary assistant says they are in terms of his interpretation of the act, by the time you get to that point, your strike or demonstration or boycott will be down the drain.

Our argument is that the government should tighten up some of the language to make a little clearer what is permissible. I would get rid of the words "not compatible" and use a term such as "directly conflicts with." Similarly, I think the 30-day ban is something that should go.

I have the sense, that members of the third party will want to address the need to put language into the bill so that one can discriminate between privately owned property that is customarily publicly used, such as a shopping mall and, for example, an individual store that is located on a street. The government may want to tighten up that language, but in any case I think what it has created here is not nearly sufficient. It has not been carefully thought out, and I think it is going to invite problems that the government thinks it may solve.

A couple of my colleagues have comments they want to make on other particular sections and aspects of the bill, so I will defer to them at this point. In conclusion, I can only say to the parliamentary assistant that it is obvious we already have some specific amendments that we intend to bring forward at the committee stage. Again, in the interest of having a better bill, I hope he will consider them.

Mr. Mackenzie: I do not intend to be very long, but my comments do relate to the questions that I had asked the parliamentary assistant earlier. There is some concern among labour groups and trade unionists over this legislation.

As my colleague said, we think it may be an improvement, but we would like specific answers to some of the questions that are being raised. There is not only the question of organizing and whether that is made easier or more difficult by this legislation, there is the question that my colleague has raised of legitimate interest groups.

One of the things that disturbs a number of us these days is the activity of some of the California growers and the use of some of the pesticides on grapes. What if we have a demonstration that is urging people not to purchase California grapes in a store that is in a mall? There is the whole question of apartheid and demonstrations that may be taking place to try to dissuade people from dealing with South Africa because of this. These are all legitimate questions.

The event of a strike in a shop or an operation of whatever kind that may be in a mall is another point that certainly raises questions. One that I mentioned in the questions is the whole question of cruise missile testing and people's reaction to it. Are these going to be seen as compatible with the rules of the owners of the mall or the tenants in the mall? We have some reason for feeling concerned.

1650

I might point out that this now deals with the old legislation, but the analysis done by George Adams, former chairman of the Ontario Labour Relations Board, is very clear. This is on the present law of trespass, mind you, but he says:

"Picketing is, of course, subject to the law of trespass. Practically, most picketing will occur in public places, sidewalks or roads adjacent to the employer's premises. It would appear that this form of picketing is subject only to the condition that public thoroughfares are not obstructed. Picketing on private property, however, may result in civil or quasi-criminal liability.

"This problem has surfaced most dramatically where picketing takes place in a shopping centre. If pickets choose to set up lines on the perimeter of the centre, the landlord or tenants not involved in the dispute may seek to enjoin such 'secondary picketing'. Where pickets choose to set up lines in the shopping centre, even if those lines are limited to the immediate premises of the employer involved in the dispute, other problems arise.

"While earlier cases expressed some doubt as to whether the employer could maintain an action in nuisance or whether the shopping centre owner could maintain an action in trespass, it is now settled that a shopping centre owner may bring an action in trespass whether the picketing is secondary or primary and peaceful. The net effect of these decisions is to empower shopping centre owners to prevent all forms of picketing. In this regard, it would seem that in Toronto, the Trespass to Property Act gives both the shopping centre owner and the employer-tenant a right to prosecute peaceful pickets involved in a legal strike and to be awarded damages."

That is the way it stood. That has been a bone of contention for a long time with workers or other protest groups that may want to operate within a shopping mall. Therein, I guess, lies the question that we have in our mind as to how the word "compatible" is going to be interpreted. We are not sure that we want to see it end up in lengthy litigation in solving these problems. I say that really because of a comment that was made by the Minister of Labour.

I raised in the Labour estimates just finished this question of whether the minister had been following the progress of this particular bill, whether the Minister of Labour has made any representations in terms of this legislation and whether the ministry would allow the freedom to operate of workers attempting to organize or various community groups that might have a wish to demonstrate on an issue.

If I can give a couple of his answers back in the dialogue—and I will not give it all, just the two or three pertinent points—I said, "As I take it, you are aware of the concern I raised and whether this ministry has made any representations to the ministry handling that bill. I guess we were in committee with it or something."

The minister said: "I should probably respond to that. I have followed the progress of the bill from the conceptual stage in terms of cabinet submissions right through to the presentation of the bill. I have been satisfied at every stage that it would be responsive and appropriate and be able to deal with the kinds of ejection notices that someone might otherwise get.

"As I understand it, Bill 149 preserves the exemption from prosecution of persons acting under a right or authority conferred by law, which would include, of course, union organizers or representatives."

I might say here that I am not as sure as the minister of that, and I am not sure what it would do in terms of some of the other protest actions

that I was talking about, whether it is against California grapes, apartheid, the cruise missile testing or what have you.

The minister goes on to say, "Yes, and the Trespass to Property Act simply acknowledges that for some purposes the pathway down the centre of a mall is analogous to the main street in a bygone era. I think that is probably the right thing to do." I would like to know if that is correct and if that could be carried a step further to cover the other forms of protest, not just union organizing or a union strike situation.

I might tell members the reason I am a little bit concerned about this. As I went on to say after the minister had made this comment in the Labour estimates: "I trust that you are right, Minister, and we may have to wait for our first experiences in this particular case, but I acknowledge your comments that you, in following it through cabinet and what not, have no fears that it will have the effect that some union people are concerned with...." The minister replied, "There probably will be some litigation arising and the courts will better interpret the appropriate sections for us."

We go from a position that it is the same thing as the centre of the street downtown in a small town in bygone eras to one that says, "Well, since you have raised it in effect, it may very well be that the courts are going to have to decide." I think it does raise the questions that my colleague raised as to whether we need a little clarification in this particular piece of legislation.

My concern is not that the bill is not a step in the right direction, but that it may not be good enough. It may not resolve the problems that are there and that have clearly been there in the past. I think it is useful to have answers to the questions that I have raised with the parliamentary assistant. The answers to those questions may very well decide just how firm we have to be in trying to achieve the two or three amendments which I believe my colleague wishes to move to this particular piece of legislation.

Mr. Sterling: Our party is very much concerned about this amendment to the Trespass to Property Act. This bill deals with the issue of trespass to property and ultimately with the rights of property owners to restrict access to their property.

The government has introduced a bill to prevent discrimination against people who congregate in public places such as retail stores, shopping malls, sports arenas, camping grounds, outdoor parks and the like. If enacted, this bill will prevent owners, managers or security guards

from excluding people from private and public premises such as shopping centres and libraries. I do not believe the parliamentary assistant is correct in excluding schools. I believe it does include schools, hotels, restaurants, playgrounds, sports arenas, concerts and outdoor parks, and there are many other areas to which this bill will apply.

This bill dramatically changes enforcement of the Trespass to Property Act from the current situation in which it is assumed that there is no discrimination and victims must first protest and prove they are being discriminated against. It changes the system to one in which it is assumed that discrimination has occurred and laws must protect and prohibit that practice.

I would like to take a moment to review the Trespass to Property Act prior to this amendment and subsequently look at Bill 149, this particular bill that we are dealing with today, to determine its impact on the act. The Trespass to Property Act, which came into effect in 1980, made no distinction between different types of property and their public use. All property in Ontario was treated the same.

Under the Trespass to Property Act, the shopping mall was no different from a residence or a small store or any other kinds of premises. The owner, under our present law today, can exclude a person or a visitor for any reason. This right is based on the belief that an owner has the right to control his own property. Under the present Trespass to Property Act, an owner, a manager or security guard of a property could require any member of the public to leave the premises at any time and for any reason, provided he gave him either a verbal or a written notice that he was no longer wanted on that property.

The property owner had the ability and the responsibility of maintaining an environment conducive to the nature of the activities of that property, be it a home, be it a business or be it a public building like a library. Bill 149 came into existence as a result of a 1987 task force which looked at the Trespass to Property Act and its effect on youth and minorities. This was referred to in the debate before I had a chance to address this Legislature.

1700

It was determined in this report that the Trespass to Property Act was being used to discriminate against youth, and particularly minority youth, and it recommended the changes that are contained in this Bill 149.

I fully understand the intent of this legislation, namely, to address the issue of discrimination with respect to youth and minority groups. The intent is laudable, for no one in this chamber would oppose any attempt to prohibit discrimination against any group in society.

But in attempting to protect those who are unlawfully discriminated against, with this bill we have inadvertently opened the floodgates to those who are exhibiting unsuitable or unacceptable behaviour in public and private places, which often are places of business with very little recourse for owners, managers or security people to take care of their business place or these public places where this is taking place.

The question must be asked, whom does this bill serve and will it resolve the present situation? The author of the 1987 task force states: "There is a widely held perception among minority groups and young people that the Trespass to Property Act is enforced in a discriminatory way against them.... This perception leads to confrontation between visitors and security guards, often resulting in escalating tensions."

Will this bill relieve those tensions? I say that it will not. I say that it will heighten tensions. Bill 149 will complicate the Trespass to Property Act so significantly that it will be difficult for the small business person to know his rights. I have established today that this not only takes into account the Eaton Centre in downtown Toronto but also takes in every mom-and-pop store across Ontario.

How do we expect those people to know the contents of this bill and what they must do in order to ask somebody to leave their premises? This bill makes it very difficult and very bureaucratic for a proprietor to remove a trespasser who is trying to create problems, and in so doing, it puts tools in the hands of those who might want to make trouble. In attempting to protect the innocent from harassment, it provides a carte blanche for those intent on causing trouble.

In Bill 149, owners of public and private premises will have to state or post rules of conduct for their premises. Any behaviour that is not posted will automatically be assumed permissible. I say "posted" because I assume that rules will have to be posted, for it would be unreasonable to expect that owners could verbally state rules of conduct to each and every individual who might frequent their premises.

This is just one more inconsistency in the bill. One cannot contravene the rules unless one

knows what the rules are. That is stated in the bill. Hence, I believe, they must be posted.

If someone violates the posted rules of conduct, the owner may ask that individual to leave immediately. However, if the individual's activity does not violate any of the posted specific rules of conduct, the owner will not be legally able to evict that person, regardless of the activity which was not foreseen but is now being performed.

Can we expect an owner to foresee all the types of activities which will be contrary to the interests of the proprietor? I would say that this is impossible and would draw in particular from the concerns of the Ontario Association of Art Galleries. They say that Bill 149 would be very alarming for art galleries, as they have certain unwritten rules that would be difficult to articulate. If galleries were expected to post all their expected rules of behaviour, the rules would take up all the exhibit space.

In an art gallery, I am led to believe, there are certain environmental conditions that must be met to properly preserve artefacts. Often when a number of people come in, the staff must ask them, for instance, to remove moisture from their clothing in order to maintain the proper level of moisture in an art gallery. Are they expected to write a rule that you have to brush off the snow before you come into the art gallery? It is important that the proper level of lighting is maintained in an art gallery. Does this mean they have to post on each light switch, "Please do not turn off this light switch"?

There are many other kinds of rules that you cannot anticipate. What happens to the small store owner, a one-man-operated store, when he knows that in the back of the store there are several people gathering in a particular area, and the operator of the store is busy at the cash counter and he expects they are taking goods and are going to leave the store without paying for them? Can he ask those particular individuals, at his own peril in terms of that small business, to leave the store when in fact it is only a suspicion that shoplifting is taking place?

I do not think that is a situation we should take out of the hands of a small store owner. I think we should allow that small store owner to weigh the fact that he may be alienating some customers or clients from his product against his suspicion that they are taking merchandise without paying for it.

Section 1h of the bill gives the expelled person the power to defend himself by giving the owner a written statement of defence that denies any

misconduct or indicates that the conduct was compatible with the public's use of the premises or that the owner's rule of conduct was unreasonable. As a result of section 1h, a trespasser may decide to challenge the owner, giving him written notice, and re-enter the premises until the matter is resolved in court.

How does the Attorney General presume that regulations and restrictions like these will lessen conflict between the groups in question? I suggest that, for those groups in shopping centres who wish to use shopping centres for purposes of trading drugs—which happens quite often in our shopping centres, unfortunately, I am told—those groups will learn what these rules are. Those groups will enter into a mini-court confrontation on the floors and in the hallways of our shopping centres, and it will pit our security officers against individuals like those.

Ontario is a multicultural province. Many of our business people do not have French or English as their mother tongue. There is no provision in the bill to provide whether or not these notices should be in English only, in French and English or in any other particular language.

1710

Should the proprietors post signs in languages common to the area of their business, their town, their city or their province, in order that they may be able to warn customers of activities which are not permitted in their place of business? Are proprietors to give written statements of their prohibitive activity in English, French or in the language of the trespasser? If "questionable activity" is not posted, where is the recourse for the store owner? Can he add it to the list as the offence is occurring? The restrictions begin to border on the ridiculous.

Bill 149 outlines the responsibility of the owner or the manager of a business, but where does it state his or her rights? The bill makes it particularly difficult to remove a trespasser from a public place or a public "private place", and virtually impossible to keep that person out for any period of time.

I have read carefully the task force report that prompted Bill 149. I appreciate that the author is an author of some stature and was trying to eliminate harassment of youth and minorities in public places. On a number of occasions, the author points to the fact that today's youth has no hangouts, no social centres, no recreation centres, and they often seek out malls as a social meeting place. I completely agree that in some areas of our province we are lacking in resources and facilities for our youth, but because we lack

these facilities—that is a fault of this government, in a way—is that sufficient justification to make commercial properties hangouts? Do these properties become hangouts by default, by this government's not providing adequate recreational services for young people?

The report suggests that shopping centres are in fact social centres, that these centres should provide for nonproductive uses and not be solely concentrated on making profit. Perhaps I agree, but do we give others all the rights to determine what is a fair use of another person's property?

The report stated that the submissions for this report were taken from two diverse groups, categorized as the "user groups" and the "owner groups." On the one hand, property owners and police "reported that they had no knowledge of arbitrary or discriminatory enforcement of the Trespass to Property Act against youth and minorities, and maintained that in total, the number of persons excluded from publicly used property"—I am talking about shopping centres and any other private property—"using the mechanisms of the act represented a minute proportion of the total traffic in such properties."

Indeed, the argument could be made that it is in the best interests of the property owners to have traffic in their mall or stores. They want the traffic here. They are in business to have people see and buy at their particular establishments.

On the other hand, the groups representing youth, visible minorities and other members of the public, which includes youth organizations and community legal clinics, were positioned at the other end of the spectrum. They submitted that it was incompatible with the important social and economic role that publicly used properties play, in contemporary Ontario society, to permit the occupiers of such properties to extend an apparent general invitation to the public, yet be permitted to withdraw that invitation in individual cases in the absence of misbehaviour by such individuals. In short, there was a common perception of arbitrary treatment and discrimination against youth and visible minorities on that end of the spectrum.

When a minister or a government is faced with two very diverse points of view, it would appear reasonable to me to try to mediate the differences to strike a balance between the opposing parties, but the conclusions of this report do not propose a delicate balance of rights and responsibilities that is necessitated in this instance. Instead, the conclusions, for the most part based on anecdotal evidence and not statistical data as the evidence of statistical data is very sparse, are very much

biased in favour of the individual's right to enter and remain on a private property and very much against the owner's right to control that property.

I believe the important aspect of this entire legislation is being lost as put forward in Bill 149. The question of trespass and the enforcement of trespass laws is one that goes far beyond the issue of race, age or ethnic origin. If a store owner is compromised by the presence of individuals in his establishment or if a customer, in attempting to receive a service, is compromised in a similar fashion, it is not unreasonable to expect the owner or that customer to want the individual in question excluded from that establishment.

At no time during the discussion of this bill was there mention of the existing appeal mechanisms for any type of discriminatory action, namely, the Ontario Human Rights Commission. If one feels one has been discriminated against by a shopkeeper or by a mall owner or for any reason listed in this bill, one can seek a remedy from the Ontario Human Rights Commission. It is not as though there is no avenue of appeal in this type of situation. There is one already embodied in our Human Rights Code.

The argument made in this report against the use of this body is that the average individual will not go to this length or does not have the sophistication required to launch an appeal with this body. Yet this legislation requires a high degree of sophistication for the mom-and-pop stores across Ontario. Where is the fairness and equity in this situation?

It is the nature of commercial enterprises to serve the public. If the public is pre-empted from entering a place of business due to the congregation of a group of individuals or is intimidated by their presence inside a place of business or near that business, and the presence of these individuals interferes with the operation of that business, then proprietors should have the right to object to this infringement.

Bill 149 negates this objection and I consider it to be an intrusion on the rights of property owners. Antidiscriminatory legislation can be achieved through constructive legislative measures, but I fail to see the merit of this bill in its present form with respect to the relieving of discriminatory attitudes. Having removed the right of property owners to control their respective environments, I see little opportunity for the situation to improve.

In summary, we oppose the legislation on these following grounds:

First, there is no significant documented statistical proof that there is a significant problem. I believe even Mr. Anand has said the problem is minuscule.

Second, the bill is much too wide in scope in that it is designed for shopping centres like the Eaton Centre with a sophisticated security staff, but also applies to each and every small retail store across our province.

1720

Third, the bill complicates our existing laws and introduces a new level of bureaucracy to business in that it requires every shopkeeper in Ontario to post rules, to keep written notices of ejection on hand and to have a knowledge of the law so that he or she can advise the trespasser of his or her rights so that the trespasser can defend himself or herself.

Fourth, the bill attempts to lessen tensions between proprietors and minority groups. We feel this bill will achieve exactly the opposite result. We believe this bill will lead to confrontation we have never seen before.

Finally, this bill represents a deficient law that will be almost impossible, if not impossible, to implement.

The Acting Speaker: Are there any comments or questions? Are there any other participants in the debate?

Mr. Reville: It is with pleasure that I participate in the debate on Bill 149, the Trespass to Property Amendment Act. For those members of the assembly who are lawyers, I am tempted to revisit all the courses on intentional tort and land law that they dozed through in their days at law school many years ago. I can tell members what the book looked like. The land law book was by Bora Laskin, late of the Supreme Court of Canada. It was a grey book, very tightly argued, totally incomprehensible.

The intentional tort book was by the late Cecil Augustus Wright, who was the dean of the law school I attended. We called him Caesar Augustus, of course, because we had a bit of a sense of humour, New Democrats or not. He, of course, was the great exponent of no-fault insurance, which this government has belatedly begun to entertain, because if there is one thing this government is, it is belated. Some people think it is frozen in the ice, but it is not; it is just belated.

I rise on this matter partly because of my dear colleague Councillor Layton. I think there may be some who would call this the Layton bill, because of course it was Councillor Layton who was arrested in the very same Eaton Centre for

behaving in a way that my colleague the member for Carleton could not possibly countenance. I think he was probably pointing out at the time that Eaton's workers should be unionized or some such folly. Right?

Mr. Laughren: The end of free enterprise.

Mr. Reville: Yes. You would not want to see that happen in this province.

I listened to the concluding remarks of the member for Carleton, who in other respects I find absolutely adorable. He talks about documented statistical proof. I will give this man documented statistical proof, if he wants some. He talks about the sophisticated security staff at the Eaton Centre. If he thinks those goons are sophisticated, I hate to think what happens in the great riding of Carleton. In fact, I am terrified to visit the riding of Carleton if the people at the Eaton Centre who are putting people out on their rear ends are somehow sophisticated.

I may even know where Carleton is. I think it is up near Ottawa. I always thought that was a fairly sophisticated, if somewhat cold part of the province of Ontario. I do know that people wait for the light to turn green before they walk.

Mr. Breagh: There is no light in Manotick.

Mr. Reville: I also know that it is at the one end of the best damn fiddler from Calabogie to Kaladar. I think Kaladar is actually somewhere near Manotick.

Mr. Sterling: It's about 200 miles away.

Mr. Laughren: It's 200 miles.

Mr. Reville: Well, if you travel the better way, 200 miles is but a fig.

As one of the urban and sophisticated downtown members of this Legislature, of which there are not clearly enough—

Mr. Sterling: Urbane.

Mr. Reville: Urbane. It means cosmopolitan. It means progressive.

Mr. Laughren: Sophisticated.

Mr. Reville: It means sophisticated even, as my friend the member for Nickel Belt tells me. I have been in Nickel Belt and it is a pretty sophisticated part of the country. I have been in Lively.

Mr. Laughren: Shining Tree is waiting for you.

Mr. Reville: I have never been in Shining Tree, although I would like to go to Shining Tree because I understand that most of the people in Shining Tree are great supporters of my friend the member for Nickel Belt; that is, at least 12 people are and the other 10 are misinformed.

I share with my colleague the member for Rainy River (Mr. Hampton), another urbane and sophisticated part of the province, concerns about Bill 149. If one wanted to revisit the fairly boring discussion of property that is familiar in law schools, one would be able to understand the history of land law and the lengths to which owners might go to prevent people they do not like from being on their land, notwithstanding the fact that some of us socialists believe property is theft. Others of us are more practical and realize that people will indeed own property, and that if they own property they will seek means to control access to their property.

Usually, the way they do that is they decide who they want to be there and who they do not. Then one gets into all sorts of stuff about invitees, licensees and bailees. I just hope some of the lawyers are paying attention because they will be familiar with these terms that are absolutely meaningless in real life, but provide lawyers with a great living in Ontario and elsewhere. Who would I be to deny lawyers a great living or even a less great living?

It strikes me that what this law is intended to deal with is the owners of property which, for some purposes, is intended to be absolutely public, and for other purposes is intended to be private. Of course, we are talking about the great malls. This is the Ghermezian effect, where what one wants to do is entice people into one's private property so that they will buy many of one's private goods and rush off cackling cheerfully to themselves that they have left all their money with the owner of the mall and they have this shoddy stuff in exchange.

Of course, the owners of these malls want all of us to come in as long as we are prepared to buy. But if we are a bit odd looking, they do not want us in there, because of course we might confuse all the buyers who might stop and look at those of us who are odd and forget to buy. I do not believe the state should be very interested in protecting the owners of all this schlock from selling all this schlock to people who do not need it.

I will not go on at length about the Councillor Layton case because Councillor Layton will go on at length about that himself. In fact, he will go on at such length that many of us will sort of drop off and wake up again several hours later and find that he is still going on about it.

There are others in our society who are attracted to these quasi-public/quasi-private spaces who are not dealt with in a way that admits of as easy redress as Councillor Layton wants.

Councillor Layton, of course, was able to hire a lawyer and go on to the courts and say blah, blah, blah, and the courts said blah, blah, blah, and everything was fine.

I am talking about people who do not have as ready access to the courts. I am talking about people who are considered to be among the less powerful of our society. I refer my good friend the member for Carleton, whose initiatives in respect of smoking in some places I totally support, notwithstanding the fact that I am a sinner myself.

1730

I think he is quite right. I think on this score, however, he is consulting with the right wing of his soul just too much. If he would look on page 91 of sessional paper 54, Third Session, 33rd Parliament, tabled Wednesday, May 13, 1987, by Smirle Forsyth, it appears, from the signature; it is, of course, the Task Force on the Law concerning Trespass to Publicly Used Property as it Affects Youth and Minorities. If he turned to page 91, he would learn a few of the facts with regard to SEED, which is an alternative high school of the Toronto Board of Education. Many of the students who are attracted to such a high school are perforce somewhat unusual in appearance. Some of them may still wear a Mohawk, which is a kind of hair design not favoured in the Legislature but which, notwithstanding, I find quite attractive. You kind of get your hair to stand up and use a lot of industrial grease on it; it will stand right up and you will look almost as though you were a member of the Six Nations confederacy which was, of course, the original owner of the land which we now occupy, notwithstanding that we did not buy it from them.

A number of young people who go to such a school look like that and, if you ask me, that is their business; not yours and not mine, but theirs. But the allegedly sophisticated security staff at the Eaton Centre think it is their business; they kind of hurry them on out the door and tell them to get on Highway 505 and go east or west, as long as it is far away from the Eaton Centre.

They do that at College Park shopping centre as well. Of course, SEED School just happened to have been across the street from College Park, so the kids went across the street to get their lunch. One of those kids was my son. He had a brilliant Mohawk, and that was his business. It offended me, but that was because I was his father. He was told to kind of move off and he is not used to taking a lot of crap from people so he said, "Put it in your nose," or some such response, which I thought was probably appropriate;

because what did this sophisticated security guard know about the law of trespass? Well, hardly anything.

We are confronted with this law, Bill 149. The member for Mississauga North thinks this is a heck of a law. It is a bit of an improvement on the common law. The common law obviously had nothing to do with being common, because it was designed by people who owned a bunch of property and that was not a very common thing. Most of us common people did not have any property. We had a few goats and some sheep. We had to kill a lot of them over the winter because we did not have enough fodder to feed them.

A lot of the members of the Legislature will not understand this stuff. This is a kind of social history, and they probably do not have that where they come from; but in fact it is true that mostly powerful people had land: kings, nobles, appointees of the Liberal government; people like that had some land and everybody else had nothing. They had to kind of beg to walk around non-stop; they had some common property until they fenced it in, and that related to the sheep. That was the enclosure laws. They caused a lot of trouble and a lot of immigration.

The section of the bill in question, of course, is section 1c:

"(1) Every person who, on premises used by the public,

"(a) engages in conduct that is not compatible with the public's use of the premises..."

What on earth could that mean?

Those of us who are somewhat sceptical about this government's intentions worry that behaviour which some might think is totally compatible with use "by the public" will, in fact, be viewed by those who own everything as being incompatible, that it will be used to restrict the behaviour and in fact the presence of certain categories of folk in these public spaces to which we are all invited: "Our City—Our Centre."

Does anybody watch that schlock on television?: "Our City—Our Centre." What could that mean? Has that got anything to do with anything? No. What it means is that you come down and you can buy all this stuff and run up a big bill on your Chargex account and they will be really happy to have you do that until you do not pay it. Then they will call you up and tell you what a worm you are because you did not pay. Until that point, of course, they say, "Buy, buy, buy."

There are those of us who have been around a bit. We obviously do not travel in the great riding of Carleton, but we travel in other parts of

Ontario where we know that if you are young and a bit odd-looking, and if you do not have on—I should not use this jacket; my colleague the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breauth) has a Samuelsohn suit on—a Samuelsohn suit, they want you to move along, unless of course it looks as though you are about to buy a Samuelsohn suit. Harry Rosen Gentlemen's Apparel is right there in the Eaton Centre. You can go on in and lay down about \$800— Well, no, that is just for the socks. You can lay down a lot of your dough, earned or not, and get one of these suits and then they will be glad to have you in there, because of course you probably would want another one soon, because the seat ripped out of the one you bought.

I had that very experience. I bought this Harry Rosen suit. I was plunging my drain out in the front and the whole seam tore— actually, it was not the seam, it was beside the seam, so the the invisible mend was about \$180. I was just a poor city councillor at the time. We did not have that kind of money, so I had to do this on the instalment plan. They did about an inch and I would come back and they would do another inch. I had to keep tugging the back of my jacket down, because I had not been able to afford all the inches up beside the seam. This was an expensive glen check suit I bought. The tailor at Harry Rosen said, "No one could have ripped a garment in that way."

They probably would have thrown me out of there. They still would under this bill, even though at that time I still had an American Express card that was current. As a result of the delay in paying the bills, I no longer have an American Express card. I do not dare leave home. I have a note from my daughter that says who I am and that I am going back there.

I would like to support the amendments as announced by my colleague the member for Rainy River who, while really a northwestern Ontarian, actually spent some time articling right here in an urbane, sophisticated security system. The member for Rainy River did his articles with the solicitor's department of Metro council, if you can imagine such a thing.

The members probably do not know this, but I would like to share this with them. The computer system at Metro council has some governors on it so that it does not print out inappropriate words. This is not well known; it is time that this was revealed. They were dealing with adult entertainment parlours and what various dancers should wear. The computer kept printing out that an opaque strip must be worn across the "public"

area, because the computer was designed not to print the word with fewer letters than public. Anyone who does not get this can speak to me after the show.

It has been a pleasure to participate in the debate. Do not stand up. I have a peroration. One of the things we learned at my trade school was Socratic debate and there is a peroration that goes on for days, actually.

1740

I thank the Speaker for his attention and I hope that I provided some enlightenment to members of the Legislature and a little bit of entertainment because, if there is one thing this Legislature is going to need over the next days and weeks and months, it is a little bit of entertainment as this government continues to be locked in the ice without direction and hopelessly enmeshed in what we call "cognitive dissonance." It is sometimes called "thought disorder," another way of describing "cognitive dissonance," though some people in the media would call it "drift." Drift on. We will be here to watch.

The Acting Speaker: Are there any comments or questions arising out of the speech and entertainment provided by the member for Riverdale?

Mr. Harris: I am going to try to do this in the three or four minutes allotted to me, so we can get on with this and other business.

As indicated by the member for Carleton, we are opposed to this particular piece of legislation. We are not totally unsympathetic and unaware of some of the problems that the legislation attempts to address, but this bill, in attempting to address what we think, admittedly, is the problem—we think a very small problem—goes a long way to violating property rights, goes a long way to causing substantial problems, particularly for the small owner.

In an attempt to draft legislation to deal with large corporations, shopping malls where there is a degree of sophistication and lawyers available, security staff available, what the government has done, in essence, is suggest that common sense can no longer prevail, whereas I suggest that common sense solves 99 per cent of these problems, if not 99.9 per cent, and felt the necessity to bring in a very complex piece of legislation that I think will exacerbate the problems of the store owner and trespasser, those who may be causing problems, that really 99 per cent of the time are mutually solved in a very logical, straightforward and sensible way.

The bill is far too wide in scope, as I said, designed for a shopping centre, but it applies to

every retail store. It complicates our existing laws and introduces a new level of bureaucracy to business. It requires every shopkeeper in Ontario to post rules, to keep written notices of ejection on hand and have a knowledge of the law so that he or she can advise the trespasser of his or her rights.

If we look at page 3 of the bill, subsection 1g(3), this is what the owner of the mom-and-pop corner store has to do. He has to have a notice prohibiting re-entry on premises which "shall be in the form prescribed by the regulations and shall,

"(a) state that the person has engaged in conduct that constitutes an offence under subsection 1c(1) and describe the conduct." Are they not going to have to hire a lawyer to do that so it conforms with everything that is there?

Then they must inform the person of the defence that is available under section 1h, so they are going to have to read this bill, understand the bill, understand the legislation, talk to their lawyer, post a notice, talk to the person that they are concerned about, who may have been shoplifting in there the day before, explain all the legal rights and all the rights under this legislation to that person and identify the premises or the part of the premises to which the notice applies. Then section 1h—

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. I must interrupt the member at this time to draw to his attention that we require a motion to adjourn the debate in order to comply with the previously agreed order on consent that we deal with a vote on Bill 187.

Mr. Sterling: Perhaps if the other members of the Legislature would agree that this member could wind up his remarks in two minutes, we would be prepared at that time—I am informed that the parliamentary assistant needs about three minutes to respond—to call this particular bill as well. Could I ask for unanimous consent?

Agreed to.

1750

The Acting Speaker: All right; two minutes for the member for Nipissing and three minutes for the parliamentary assistant.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Well, I vote for one and a half.

Mr. Harris: It may take only one and a half.

This whole section outlines what mom and dad and the young sister or the daughter who comes home from school and works in the store after school have to do. This is what is being expected

of them, to remove or keep an undesirable from their store.

Subsection 1g(2) states, "The occupier or person authorized by the occupier may prohibit a person from entering on premises or a part of the premises, for a specified period not exceeding 30 days from the date of conduct complained of, by giving the person a notice prohibiting re-entry on premises."

Can members imagine somebody, particularly a young kid, coming in and stealing a pomegranate—as I confess I did at a certain age from a certain store in North Bay—and that storekeeper cannot resolve that situation in a commonsense, logical way? Now the storekeeper has to read this act, know the act, get the lawyer, post the notices, do this and presumably notify that kid's parents' lawyer as to what the conditions are under which that kid can come back and help the mom get the groceries next day.

Does that sound extreme? That is exactly what this particular piece of legislation does. That is what it does for every small, one-person or two-person store across this province. It is a ridiculous invasion on private property rights to solve what I think could be solved much more simply in another way. So we will oppose this particular bill.

The Acting Speaker: Next, as agreed, the parliamentary assistant for three minutes.

Mr. Offer: First, I would like to indicate to the members of the opposition my appreciation of their support of this legislation. I understand that this matter is going to go out to committee and I look forward to a good debate and a good analysis of the particular legislation, the amendment to the Trespass to Property Act.

The member for Wellington, in his opening comments, asked a question which I did not have sufficient time allotted to me to respond to, the question of the notice being posted. I have given him that information, but under the legislation notice need not be posted, the rules of conduct of any one particular premise need not be posted in all of their complexity and exhaustiveness. I think that is extremely important to realize under this legislation.

One very important aspect is, what does this bill do? This bill states that for someone who finds himself in publicly used private property, if the occupiers or owners of that property are asking him to leave because his conduct is not, in their opinion, compatible with the use of that premise, they have to give that person a reason in writing as to why he must leave.

If they are doing that, they cannot bar him from such a place in perpetuity; there is going to be a time limit of 30 days. I think that is an important amendment, I think that is an important right given to the users of these publicly used places, these malls.

I believe this particular legislation meets a very necessary social problem. I look forward to debating this matter in committee and to its eventual passage when we report back to the House.

1800

TRESPASS TO PROPERTY AMENDMENT ACT

The House divided on Mr. Offer's motion for second reading of Bill 149, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes

Allen, Black, Breaugh, Bryden, Callahan, Campbell, Caplan, Carrothers, Charlton, Cleary, Collins, Cooke, D. S., Daigeler, Eakins, Elliot, Epp, Farnan, Faubert, Fawcett, Ferraro, Fleet, Fontaine, Fulton, Grandmaitre, Haggerty, Hampton, Henderson, Hošek, Kanter, Kerrio, Kormos, Kozyra, Laughren, Lipsett, Lupusella;

MacDonald, Mackenzie, Mahoney, Mancini, Martel, McClelland, McGuinty, Miclash, Miller, Morin-Strom, Neumann, Nicholas, Nixon, J. B., Oddie Munro, Offer, O'Neil, H., O'Neill, Y., Owen, Pelissero, Philip, E., Polsinelli, Poole, Reville, Reycraft, Roberts, Ruprecht, Smith, D. W., Sola, South, Stoner, Sullivan, Tatham, Velshi, Ward, Wong, Wrye.

Nays

Harris, Jackson, Johnson, J. M., McCague, McLean, Pollock, Pope, Sterling, Wiseman.

Ayes 71; nays 9.

Bill ordered for standing committee on administration of justice.

POLICE AND SHERIFFS STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT

The House divided on Hon. Mr. Scott's motion for second reading of Bill 187, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes

Black, Callahan, Campbell, Caplan, Carrothers, Cleary, Collins, Daigeler, Eakins, Elliot, Epp, Faubert, Fawcett, Ferraro, Fleet, Fontaine, Fulton, Grandmaitre, Haggerty, Henderson, Hošek, Kanter, Kerrio, Kozyra, Lipsett, Lupusella, MacDonald, Mahoney, Mancini, McClelland, McGuinty, Miclash, Miller;

Neumann, Nicholas, Nixon, J. B., Oddie Munro, Offer, O'Neil, H., O'Neill, Y., Owen, Pelissero, Polsinelli, Poole, Reycraft, Roberts, Ruprecht, Smith, D. W., Sola, South, Stoner, Sullivan, Tatham, Velshi, Ward, Wong, Wrye.

Nays

Allen, Breaugh, Bryden, Charlton, Cooke, D. S., Farnan, Hampton, Harris, Jackson, Johnson, J. M., Kormos, Laughren, Mackenzie, Martel, McCague, McLean, Morin-Strom, Philip, Pollock, Pope, Reville, Sterling, Wiseman.

Ayes 57; nays 23.

Bill ordered for standing committee on administration of justice.

The House adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

ERRATUM

No.	Page	Column	Line	Should read:
126	7101	1	38	

Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital Act, Bill Pr80, Mr. Reycraft, agreed to 7067

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

- Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breough, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitowlin L)
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)
Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health (Orléans L)
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)
Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)
 Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC)
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)
Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)
Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A., Speaker (Perth L)
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)
Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L)
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)
Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)
Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)
 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)
Grandmaître, Hon. Bernard C., Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)
 Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)
 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)
Hošek, Hon. Chaviva, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)
 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)
 Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L)
Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G., Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L)
 Kormos, Peter (Welland-Thorold NDP)
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)
Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)
 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)
 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)
 Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)
 MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)
 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)
Mancini, Hon. Remo, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)
 Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)
 Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP)
 Matrundola, Gino (Willowdale L)
 McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)
 McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)
 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)
 McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)
 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)
McLeod, Hon. Lyn, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)
 Miclash, Frank (Kenora L)

Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)
Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)
Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)
Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)
Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)

Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier,
Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Eco-
nomics and Minister of Financial Institutions
(Brant-Haldimand L)

Oddie Munro, Hon. Lily, Minister of Culture
and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)

Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)

O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and
Recreation (Quinte L)

O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)

Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)

Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government
Services (Ottawa Centre L)

Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)

Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and Presi-
dent of the Council and Minister of Inter-
governmental Affairs (London Centre L)

Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)

Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship
(Scarborough-Agincourt L)

Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of
the Committees of the Whole House (Prescott
and Russell L)

Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)

Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)

Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)

Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)

Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)

Rae, Bob (York South NDP)

Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional
Services (Timiskaming L)

Ray, Michael C., Deputy Chairman of the
Committees of the Whole House (Windsor-
Walkerville L)

Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)

Reycraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)

Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and
Food (Huron L)

Roberts, Marietta L. D. (Elgin L)

Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)

Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)

Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General
(St. George-St. David L)

Smith, David W. (Lambton L)

Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General
(London South L)

Sola, John (Mississauga East L)

Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour
(York Centre L)

South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)

Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)

Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)

Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)

Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community
and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)

Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)

Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)

Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glen-
garry PC)

Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of
Education (Wentworth North L)

Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)

Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio
(Dufferin-Peel L)

Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)

Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy
(Fort York L)

Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and
Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)

*The alphabetical list of members appears in
each issue. Lists of the members of the executive
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of committees, brought up to date as necessary,
are published in Hansard in the first and last
issues of each session and on the first sitting day
of each month.

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Publication

No. 147

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



First Session, 34th Parliament
Wednesday, February 15, 1989

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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1981-1982

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

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Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Wednesday, February 15, 1989

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

VERONICA TENNANT

Mr. Cousens: I rise in the House today to give respect and credit to one of our province's most outstanding citizens, a woman who for the past quarter of a century has delighted audiences with her dramatic performances. Her contribution to Canada, and in particular to Ontario, has made each of us that much prouder of our heritage.

I am pleased to recognize one of the National Ballet's principal dancers as she retires from her outstanding career. Veronica Tennant, Canada's great dramatic ballet dancer, has spent what is for some a lifetime in the National Ballet. She grew up with the company that for 25 years was her home. She leaves behind a legacy of devotion, a devotion to her audiences and to the art form that she chose to explore. Ms. Tennant is a Canadian who danced on stages around the world, in the United States, Japan, Italy and Britain. She has represented us well.

I am sure all members will join with me in wishing Ms. Tennant an equally rewarding career over the next quarter of a century. We thank her for what she has given so far to dance, to Ontario and to Canada. She has performed her part brilliantly. There is only one thing left for us to do and that is to say thank you, Veronica Tennant.

RECYCLING

Mr. Velshi: I would like to note with pleasure recent developments relating to corporate contributions in the waste management and recycling process in Ontario.

Until recently, assumed economic realities have inhibited the development of effective recycling programs. However, some corporate citizens have begun to re-evaluate their positions on recycling by taking a more responsible role in the development of Ontario's new revitalized recycling movement. Corporations which until recently were offenders of refillable ratio standards are now at the forefront of advertising

booster campaigns to remind consumers about recycling initiatives.

Ontario-based soft drink manufacturers will soon begin a \$20-million advertising campaign distributing their products with slogans reminding consumers that they can all do their part to contribute to the recycling process. This will directly help the blue box program, which I might add was initiated in North York just this week.

Leading manufacturers are now finally recognizing the need for new, more positive and co-operative relationships with the public sector when addressing issues that affect waste management and the environment. Although corporate advertising, marketing and financial support are not a panacea for this province's environmental problems, they are certainly a step in the right direction.

I am genuinely pleased with the initiatives these companies have undertaken and I hope they will set a new standard for corporate environmental responsibility.

RAPE CRISIS CENTRES

Mr. Allen: Sexual violence is a major problem in our society. According to statistics quoted by the Ontario women's directorate, one in every four Canadian women is sexually assaulted at some point in her life.

The Sexual Assault Centre in Hamilton, our city, provides vital services to individuals in our community who have been victimized. Volunteers and staff maintain a 24-hour crisis line and accompany victims of sexual assault to hospital, to the police station and to court. They provide public education and preventive programs in the community and support groups to women who have been sexually victimized. Representatives of the centre also sit on several local committees and networks: the Sexual Abuse Network, the Council for Domestic Violence, the Prevention Network, the Hamilton and District Council of Women and Women Working Against Sexual Harassment.

Without adequate staffing and financial support from the Ministry of the Solicitor General, centre staff and volunteers cannot continue to maintain this level of service. Although members

of the Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres submitted a proposal to the Solicitor General (Mrs. Smith) at her request in June 1988, they have received no commitment or response from her.

I wish personally to lend my support to the request for more adequate and secure funding being presented to the Hamilton centre and the other centres in the Ontario coalition. I urge the minister to take immediate and appropriate action to ensure that their concerns are addressed.

CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES

Mr. Pollock: I have been asking the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) to sponsor public information meetings on the future of conservation authorities. He has responded by sending the parliamentary assistant to all conservation authorities in the province to try to sell the recommendations of the Burgar report.

I was at one of these meetings and saw the parliamentary assistant's sales pitch. He is giving the impression that the changes are as good as complete, whether user groups, conservation authorities or the general public like it or not.

The minister, in setting up these closed-door meetings, has failed to include one of the most important groups in the consultation, the people of Ontario, the ones most affected by the programs conservation authorities deliver and the ones who enjoy the use of conservation authority parks and natural areas.

The minister's parliamentary assistant has a three-member committee to assist him in his evaluation of these meetings and submissions sent to the minister. The committee will recommend to the minister what changes should be made. No one in the committee represents the public viewpoint. The minister's plans have a gaping hole. He will change the entire structure of conservation authorities with no public consultation.

We have decided to bring this to a public forum for the minister. Our caucus is hosting a public meeting on March 1.

WORLD ROWING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Mr. Dietsch: I would like to take this opportunity to bring to the attention of the members of this House the bid of the Henley Rowing Corp. to host the World Rowing Championships in 1993, 1994 or 1995 in St. Catharines. Tim Rigby, the president of the Canadian Amateur Rowing Association, just

recently made a presentation in Athens, Greece, and received approval to make a bid.

It is interesting to note that seldom are the world championships held anywhere but in Europe. In 1970, however, St. Catharines hosted the world championships at the Henley course. At present, they are competing against Indianapolis, Indiana, the only other North American city approved to make such a bid.

I think it speaks well for the Henley Rowing Corp., under the directorship of its president, Hap Lafferty, bid chairman George Potton, Tim Rigby and others for all their efforts.

Furthermore, I would like to take the opportunity to offer my wholehearted support of St. Catharines' bid and urge all members of this House to support its quest to hold this prestigious sporting event in St. Catharines, Ontario.

1340

NATIVE PEOPLE AND THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Mr. Hampton: Yesterday, in front of the Legislature, a group of native people gathered to protest many grievances they have with the justice system. The specific event that sparked their protest was the death and decapitation of an Indian woman and the resulting conviction of the offender with only a two-year sentence.

As the people at the demonstration stated very clearly, they cannot believe that crimes against property receive much more severe sentences than the individual in this case did for the decapitation and, basically, cutting up of a human body. But their protest involved much more than just this single event. As many of the speakers pointed out, across northern Ontario, in too many cases, there are jails which have a disproportionate number of native people in them, a disproportionate number of native people serving sentences that may be, in their view—and I must admit I feel the same—out of line.

They are pleading for greater understanding from the justice system of the plight of native people, and they pointed to what is happening right now in Manitoba. The government of that province has undertaken a commission studying the plight of native people and the way they are treated by the justice system. I would recommend one for this province too.

MUNICIPAL FUNDING

Mr. McLean: My statement is directed to the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley). Taxpayers in six Simcoe North municipalities were hit with some bad news recently. The bad

news is that their tax bills will increase substantially this year because of the cost of waste disposal.

The North Simcoe Waste Management Corp. concludes that it will cost a total of \$3.6 million to collect, transfer and transport garbage from the towns of Penetanguishene and Midland and the surrounding municipalities. Tipping fees at Keele Valley landfill site, the final destination for the garbage, will be increased to \$85 a tonne from the current \$50, and the cost of hauling this garbage is also expected to rise.

This additional financial burden will be placed squarely on the backs of the taxpayers at a time when the government has frozen the unconditional grants to Ontario's municipalities at 1988 levels. This is clearly unacceptable.

The time is long overdue for the minister to get down to the task of solving the province's waste management crisis. It is also time for his government to rethink its policy on unconditional grants to municipalities.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

NURSES' PARTICIPATION IN HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: It is my pleasure to announce today amendments to the regulations governing the administration of Ontario's public hospitals which will give both nursing administrators and staff nurses a greater voice in decision-making in their institutions.

Four recent reports, by the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario, the Hospital Council of Metropolitan Toronto, the Ontario Nurses' Association and my ministry's Advisory Committee on Nursing Manpower, all concluded that the quality of worklife for nurses needs to be improved.

Under the amendments, staff nurses and nurses who are managers will be represented on committees involved in the hospital's administration. These include, among others, the patient care committee, the utilization review committee, the occupational health and safety program and the health surveillance program. In fact, nurses will have an active voice in administrative, financial, operational and planning decisions in their hospitals.

In addition, nursing representatives from both staff and the administrative groups will also be accorded a voice on the emergency planning committee. The staff nurse representatives will be elected by their colleagues to ensure a truly participatory process.

We will be having further discussions with nursing, medical and hospital groups on the effective implementation of this new provision and on nursing representation on specific committees.

I will be writing to all the province's public hospitals asking them to implement these changes as soon as possible. I am also urging them to take appropriate steps to improve the quality of worklife for their nurses, as this will inevitably have a positive effect on job satisfaction and, ultimately, on the care of the hospital's patients.

Successful hospital administration is a partnership: a partnership of the administrative staff and of the people who give direct patient care. Bringing staff nurses into the decision-making process will broaden this partnership.

The question of professional and staff representation on the hospital board will be covered in a wide-ranging review of the Public Hospitals Act. This review will be a consultative process in which we will seek advice, opinions and recommendations from a wide array of organizations, associations and individuals, as well as the public.

I am also announcing today the establishment of a fiscal advisory committee on hospitals. This committee will be composed of representatives from the administration, the medical staff and the nursing staff.

The fiscal advisory committee arose from the Conjoint Review Committee which looked into hospital operations last summer. The conjoint review included representatives of the Ontario Medical Association, the Ontario Council of Administrators of Teaching Hospitals, the Ontario Nurses' Association, the Ontario Hospital Association and my ministry.

It was the consensus of this committee that hospitals needed to develop strength in financial planning. The fiscal advisory committee will make that possible. Its mandate is to make recommendations to the hospital board on a wide range of subjects which will affect the operation of the hospital, how it is used and how it is staffed.

I used the word "partnership" a moment ago. The Conjoint Review Committee also used this word. It felt that our hospitals need to foster a sense of partnership among their administrators and their staff who are involved in giving care to patients. The more co-operation there is among nurses, physicians, administrators and all of the people who perform their services in a hospital setting, the better the care their patients will

receive and the more effective hospital administration will be.

The membership on the fiscal advisory committee was designed to foster this partnership. However, we recognize that these initiatives are only part of the solution. They are but the first steps on the way to improving the quality of worklife for our nurses and involving them more fully in decision-making so that the entire hospital operation may benefit from their participation. We will continue to address nursing issues by working closely with hospitals and with nursing associations.

LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD OF ONTARIO

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I would like to inform the members of a new product management system to be used by the Liquor Control Board of Ontario in determining what products will be sold in its 620 stores.

Members are aware that the last two years have seen many changes take place at the LCBO, including a major management reorganization in late 1987. All of these changes have worked towards making the LCBO a more customer-driven and businesslike organization.

This process of change and improvement in service continues. Next Monday, the LCBO will launch its province-wide new 1-800 toll free Infoline in the Windsor area. The Infoline will provide consumers with easy access to information in both English and French on a wide range of topics pertaining to store policies, products and services.

This morning, the new LCBO product listings system was unveiled to representatives of both domestic and foreign beverage alcohol suppliers. The goal of the new system is to meet the needs of consumers who are demanding better access to a broad selection of products. It will also appeal to suppliers who want more flexible access to liquor store shelves and an improved ability to move products in and out of the distribution system in response to rapidly changing consumer tastes and preferences.

The new policy was written following extensive consultation with the industry last fall and will come into force over the coming year. I believe these new changes clearly represent a step forward in fostering a businesslike environment for fair and open competition between beverage alcohol suppliers.

The new policy is consistent with the principles of international trade in that all suppliers will be treated exactly the same. Each new product submission will require a comprehensive busi-

ness plan and marketing strategy. If selected for consideration, it must then pass stringent lab and tasting tests. All listings will be required to meet their own individual yearly sales quota, agreed to in advance by the supplier, or face possible delisting. Suppliers will be able to appeal any listing or delisting decision to a special appeals committee not involved in making the original decision.

1350

Current listings will be exempted from the new requirements until January 1 of next year. The first listings committee meeting under the new system will take place this summer. The detailed listing forms were made available to suppliers today. This market-driven system will create a much improved environment for suppliers and will offer a fair and easily understood set of rules under which they can market their products.

I am confident the new Liquor Control Board of Ontario product management system will contribute significantly to the LCBO's business plans, while improving selection and access for both consumers and suppliers.

RESPONSES

NURSES' PARTICIPATION IN HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT

PARTICIPATION DES GARDES-MALADES À LA GESTION DES HÔPITAUX

Mr. B. Rae: In anticipation of the report on Monday of the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board, on Thursday of last week the Minister of Financial Institutions (Mr. Elston) announced the Liberal government was going to be studying the question of no-fault insurance. Coincidence, you say, Mr. Speaker? Just a coincidence?

The Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan), knowing that on Orders and Notices there is a motion of nonconfidence in the government with respect to nursing and health care, chooses today to announce the amendments to Ontario regulation 518/88. After two and a half years of requests to the minister to make these changes, she chooses today to make this announcement. Just a coincidence, you say, Mr. Speaker? Perhaps. Stranger things have happened in the minds of men and of women.

I want to say to the minister today that we think this announcement is long overdue. It is one that is obviously a very necessary first step in the creation of a true democratic administration of our health care system, one in which we take seriously the requests of workers. If it is good enough for the workers in our hospital system,

perhaps it will one day be good enough for the workers of General Motors, of Inco and of other places who have no rights with respect to the management of the places where they work.

We look forward to a reform of company law. We look forward to a reform of all aspects of insurance law so that drivers have some control over their own insurance system. I think this is a very necessary step, not only in terms of our hospital system but also in terms of recognizing the rights of working people everywhere.

I might add that one of the questions the minister is going to get is that if she is making these changes with respect to nurses, she is going to have to answer the questions of other workers within the hospital system as to why they are not being included on hospital committees and as to why they are not being taken seriously with respect to the fiscal administration of the hospitals.

I can tell her, from my experience, that everyone in the hospital system has ideas and has something to contribute to the management and operation of the hospital. I would have thought the minister would have wanted to make of the hospitals a true model that would speak not only to improving our health care system and to improving the conditions of nurses, but that also would be a model for other workers as well.

This change, as I say, is long overdue. It is a very necessary change. It is, however, only a first step. As the minister has said, we need to change the Public Hospitals Act. We have been looking forward to these changes for a very long time. The minister has been studying them for a very long time. I think time is wasting. It is time to get on with this question. I hope very much that the minister will make those changes.

Je veux dire que reconnaître enfin le travail des infirmières — même si ça se produit la journée même où nous avons une motion de censure du gouvernement, précisément sur cette question de la reconnaissance du travail des infirmières dans notre système hospitalier — c'est un changement que nous attendons depuis longtemps.

Mr. Reville: If I can continue where my leader has left off, clearly I am pleased about the small step that has been taken by the government today. I am concerned that the distance between steps may be too far and too long. I am concerned particularly about the wide-ranging review of the Public Hospitals Act that has been announced. It is important that such review catch up to all the work that has been done over the last eight years on the health professions legislative review, because obviously those two matters are closely

intertwined. It worries me that the ministry is just now beginning the review of the Public Hospitals Act.

I am concerned as well that the minister says she is just now writing to the province's public hospitals urging them to take appropriate steps to improve the quality of work life for their nurses. Clearly, we know there are other steps that need to be taken.

I know the minister will want to pay careful attention this afternoon during the nonconfidence debate. If it happens that the government does not resign at the end of that debate, at least it will have had the benefit of some other steps we will offer it which it should be taking to ensure that patients get the highest quality of care possible and that the nursing profession is protected.

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has now expired. Thank you.

Mr. Eves: It is my pleasure to rise in the House this afternoon and actually congratulate the minister on this step she has taken. This is a step we have been asking her to take since at least last March when the first nursing report was made public. I realize there were three others that followed. They all made similar recommendations.

Here we are not really talking about changing an act of the Legislature but a regulation pursuant to an act. I would like to have thought this could have been done many months ago. However, as they say, "Better late than never." I think it is a good step. It is a good step to get some very direct input, as I have said on many occasions, from those in the nursing profession who deal with the problems in the public hospital system and elsewhere in health care on a day-to-day basis, and who are more than familiar with the problems in the system.

We are looking forward also to the minister's review of the Public Hospitals Act, because that is a very important second step that has to take place. This is a good first step with respect to the nursing profession. There are many other problems the nursing profession has out there unrelated to this, but this certainly at least gives nurses input on a very direct basis on what has to be done in our hospitals and health care system in Ontario today.

We look forward to the minister's proposal with respect to the Public Hospitals Act.

LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD OF ONTARIO

Mr. Runciman: I have a brief response to the public relations fluff announcement made by the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations

(Mr. Wrye). It is obvious the government is desperate to fill the air to give an indication that something is happening over there. This is really nothing new, nothing meaningful, other than some sort of very belated response to very severe and harsh criticism by the Provincial Auditor on two occasions with respect to management practices at the Liquor Control Board of Ontario.

I think the only real, new initiative we have seen undertaken at the LCBO in the past couple of years was a result of a recommendation from the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario, and that was for the expansion of agency stores in this province. Indeed, we compliment the minister and the government for accepting the recommendation of our party and following through on that very important consumer-oriented recommendation.

Looking at the monopoly the LCBO has with respect to the sale of alcohol products in this province, I want to suggest that perhaps more innovative ways should be looked at in terms of recognizing the very real needs of consumers in this province. We are quite prepared to work with the minister in achieving that kind of objective.

Mr. Speaker: That completes ministerial statements and responses.

Mr. Ferraro: Is that what he wants, liquor in the corner stores?

Mr. Speaker: I have not called for oral questions yet.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Oral questions.

ORAL QUESTIONS

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Mr. B. Rae: I have a question for the Minister of Financial Institutions. There is growing evidence that there is a real problem of affordability with the rates that are being imposed by the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board. He will know that under section 27 of the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board Act, he has the power to make a policy statement for the board, and that under section 20 of the act, the board has the legal jurisdiction to review any decision it has made, to consider evidence before it and to make a new decision with respect to any rate it has established.

I wonder if the minister can tell us whether it is his intention to tell the board how this government feels about senior citizens who are facing increases of 20, 25 and 30 per cent and about others who are facing increases as high as 82 per cent, and whether he does not think that

affordability is something the board should take into account when setting the rates for drivers in this province.

1400

Hon. Mr. Elston: The honourable gentleman is absolutely wrong when he talks about increases of 20 and 25 per cent for senior citizens. The honourable gentleman is trying to create here something approaching fear among those people.

I can tell the honourable gentleman that from what I saw in a preliminary way yesterday, the implications across the province for seniors are somewhere around perhaps one per cent when we deal with the discrimination issue. I have some preliminary work that has been done now by the auto board to look at what happens in some communities with respect to seniors. The indication is nowhere close to 25 per cent when you address the issue of benchmark rates, or even upwards of the top rate.

His assertion is absolutely false. In fact, it seems to me to lead to unproductive activity on his part with respect to this issue in trying to scare people. I think he would know that as a result of that, I will not be sending out a directive at this point when we do not know exactly what the insurance companies are going to file in the way of their own rates.

Mr. B. Rae: The minister has said that my views are unproductive. I am sure the senior citizens of the province will be interested to hear that their views are also regarded as unproductive, as what I am saying in the House today is reflective—

Hon. Mr. Elston: That is not what I said. I said your scare tactics are unproductive and you've been doing it a lot lately. That's what you do these days.

Mr. B. Rae: No. It does not take any imagination to know that if 20 seniors' organizations are out there complaining about the rate increase, it is not because of anything said by the New Democratic Party; it is because they read the newspapers and watch television and know exactly what their increases are going to be.

The minister has refused to answer my question. Once again, if we have people whose rates are going up and they cannot afford it, is that something that bothers him or not? If it does bother him, why does he not exercise his power under the act to ask the board to review its decision so that nobody faces a rate increase he simply cannot afford as an individual consumer? What is he going to do about affordability?

Hon. Mr. Elston: What I am going to do today is indicate quite clearly that we have a benchmark increase of 7.6 per cent. That gentleman over there is making some suggestion about outrageous increases for which he has no evidence when it applies to senior citizens. That gentleman is trying to stir up a storm before the companies have had a chance to file rates and tell the market what the real cost is going to be from place to place.

With respect to seniors, for the member's purposes and for the purposes of all of the members here, there some preliminary numbers that ought to be repeated around the province. At the benchmark rate, somebody in Scarborough, for instance, can expect an impact of about one per cent. A benchmark rate would take it up to eight per cent. In Windsor, the new plan would show a decrease of nine per cent at the benchmark up to minus two per cent. In Thunder Bay, the new plan will be minus 14 per cent; the benchmark would be minus eight per cent. In Timmins, it is minus 20 per cent with the new class plan, and the benchmark would take it to minus 13 per cent. Ottawa would be at minus six with the new class plan and at plus one per cent when it is taken to the—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Would the members please allow the member for Welland-Thorold to ask a final supplementary.

Mr. Kormos: The board's own report notes that the impact of these increases on some segments, in particular young females, and not just older drivers but more particularly newly licensed older drivers, will be very significant, yet the board declined to impose any requirement that there be a phasing in. In view of the board's own acknowledgement of the significance of the impact on those classes of persons, would the minister use his jurisdiction under section 27 to direct a consideration of phasing in for these people who are going to be hardest hit by the massive increases?

Hon. Mr. Elston: What I have been telling people lately is what I will be telling the member today, and that is that we have a 30-day period after the announcement in which companies will be filing their rate increases as suggestions to the board. That has to take place so that we know exactly what is going to be occurring in the marketplace. I will be watching that filing as it comes about, obviously over the next 30 days.

The honourable gentleman is quite right that there are some changes required because of the introduction of a new class plan that we are quite in favour of and that eliminates the discrimination about which we spoke yesterday. I can tell the honourable gentleman that there are some adjustments required in the marketplace—there is no question about that—and there are some increases.

But as I said with respect to the people in Ottawa, in the example of the seniors I gave just a couple of minutes ago, when we talk about an increase of about plus one per cent on their current average premium, it will move the premium from about \$524 upwards to \$564. It is an average number, but it is interesting to indicate that the premium at that level, the \$564, is still a very reasonable rate for coverage.

Mr. Speaker: New question, the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. B. Rae: The minister should be careful because we do—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

[Later]

Hon. Mr. Elston: Mr. Speaker, I rise to correct the record. I gave a wrong number when I was quoting a number for market premiums for Ottawa. I had indicated that the difference between the board class impact and the benchmark impact was one per cent, but I misquoted the average premium numbers associated with both of those numbers. The number I should have quoted was the difference between the market premium now, which is \$559, and the benchmark impact, which would take the number to \$564, which I indicate was the correct number. I apologize for the mistake.

NURSING SERVICES

Mr. B. Rae: My question is for the Minister of Health. Is it still the view of the minister that the nursing shortage is essentially a Metropolitan Toronto problem?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I have said on numerous occasions in this House that the vacancy rate in nursing varies across this province, from zero in some communities where it is no problem to seven per cent in downtown Toronto.

Mr. B. Rae: The minister has told the Toronto Star that she regards it as essentially a Metropolitan Toronto problem.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: He's subtle.

Mr. B. Rae: I always enjoy hearing from the Premier because nobody is asking him any questions these days.

McKellar General Hospital has had to temporarily close four of the beds in an 11-bed intensive care unit; the minister will know McKellar is in Thunder Bay. Major surgeries have frequently been cancelled because of a lack of nurses to care for patients in post-op or ICU, and ICU nurses have worked up to 110 hours over a two-week pay period.

They had a regional meeting of the Ontario Nurses' Association in Thunder Bay the other day. There were 22 units represented, hospitals and health care units throughout northwestern Ontario. More than half of those units reported severe staff shortages of trained nurses. Can the minister tell us why she continues to take the view that this is really only a Metro problem and not a province-wide problem?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I will repeat again for the Leader of the Opposition, and perhaps this time he will pay attention, that in fact I said very clearly that the vacancy rate across the province is quite varied. In some communities it is somewhere between zero and two per cent to three per cent and in downtown Toronto it is seven per cent.

We are particularly concerned in downtown Toronto, because it seems to be focused in the area of critical care, and we are moving and taking steps to address that situation. The member knows full well that there are many challenges facing northern Ontario. We have, as he knows, established the Northern Health Manpower Committee to address many of these issues that are unique to the northern part of our province.

Mr. B. Rae: There are communities like Thunder Bay with more than 100,000 people, and smaller communities like Red Lake and Geraldton that are reporting very severe staff shortages and are unable to deal with problems as a result. In light of what the minister has heard now from the ONA, in light of what she has heard from a great many people throughout the system, can she tell us why her government continues to take the view that it will not open up the collective agreement, allow serious bargaining to take place with respect to nursing shortages and deal collectively with the government and the Ontario Hospital Association together, deal with the problem, partly a problem of recognition but partly and in good part a question of money?

I cannot understand why the minister would be reluctant—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. B. Rae: —to sit down and let that process happen and make sure we respond to this crisis.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

1410

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I find it shocking that the Leader of the Opposition would stand in this House and advocate government intervention in the collective bargaining process. The Ontario Nurses' Association and the Ontario Hospital Association collectively agreed to the first contract ever agreed to without arbitration. That the member would stand in this House and ask for government intervention, I find shocking.

Mr. B. Rae: Are you equally shocked with the ONA?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The minister completed the response a while ago. Please stop wasting time.

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Mr. Runciman: My question is for the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs. It was reported that this morning, on her way to cabinet, the minister was questioned by the media about the impact of auto insurance rate increases on seniors. Her response was—apparently this is on tape—"Seniors are not a poverty group."

I want to indicate to the minister a couple of quotes from a study done for the Social Assistance Review Committee, An Overview of Poverty in Ontario: "Families with heads aged 65 or older, poor families in Ontario, totalled 27,300." Another quote: "Almost half of all unattached elderly persons in Ontario were poor in 1984: 115,000 out of 253,000."

Will the minister be kind enough to explain to this House and to seniors across this province, many of whom exist on meagre fixed incomes, why she, as their advocate in cabinet, is not addressing their very real concerns about the way this government and its New Democratic Party friends have treated their auto insurance classification changes?

Interjections.

Mr. B. Rae: I take the blame for a lot of things, but this is not one I'm going to carry the can for.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mrs. Wilson: There have been many reports in the press recently. I am consulting with seniors' groups with regard to their reaction to the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board rates.

It appears from the analysis of the documents we have done to date that what a person's increase or decrease in those rates may be

depends very clearly on where he or she lives in this province, from a low in Timmins of a decrease of more than 19 per cent to a marginal increase in Scarborough for other age groups. This is the information I believe needs to get out to seniors so they can review in a rational manner the rates they may be involved with over the next short term.

Mr. Runciman: That was a complete avoidance of my question with respect to the quote attributed to the minister, "Seniors are not a poverty group," which flies in the face of statistics prepared by her own government.

As the advocate for seniors, the minister should know that the new risk classification system for auto insurance will prohibit insurance companies from offering senior citizen discounts, discounts of between 10 per cent and 15 per cent traditionally based on age.

The minister was also quoted in this scrum as saying, with respect to rate increases for seniors, "Overall, the effect will be marginal." If the cost of putting food on your table, your mortgage, rent, hydro or gasoline went up 20 per cent, 30 per cent or 40 per cent in nine months, with no improvement in the service, would the minister describe that as marginal? How does she justify that comment?

Hon. Mrs. Wilson: I am certain that when the figures are analysed and presented to seniors and other age groups across the province, we will have an opportunity then to discuss actual realities. Many seniors in the province will experience decreases in their insurance premiums. Those who will be experiencing increases may wish to work with me and the insurance companies. There may be insurance companies that may wish to phase in increases over a period of time. This may well be a solution which would be palatable to those who are faced with large increases, whether they be seniors or whether they be 30-year-old drivers with little driving experience.

I am certain that those talks are yet to come, both with the insurance people and with the groups who are concerned to date, and I would be happy to work with those groups.

Mr. Runciman: I do not know if that was an announcement of a new policy or not. Time will tell.

I want to read a couple of other statistics from the Ministry of Transportation report in 1987, Ontario Road Safety. Numbers show that relative to the total number of licensed drivers in each age cohort, drivers in the 65-to-74 age group have the lowest level of accident involvement. Drivers in

the 75-plus age group have the second lowest. I can go on and on with statistics, proving that this age group is the safest in terms of driving.

Given those statistics, which the minister should be aware of, does the minister still support this very unfair risk classification change brought in by her government with the support of the NDP, a system that penalizes our safest drivers, a system that penalizes people surviving on fixed incomes at poverty levels, a system that penalizes older people in society—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Did the minister hear any question?

Hon. Mrs. Wilson: I heard the first part of the question and I will certainly address that portion of it.

As advocate for seniors, I am very pleased to hear the honourable member opposite quote those figures, because there is a prevailing attitude that perhaps older drivers are not cautious and safe drivers. For him to indicate to the House today that in fact older people are good drivers makes me feel very good, and I hope that people will take note of those figures today.

Ontario is moving from a classification system which is based largely on age, sex and marital status to one which bases premiums on identifiable risks. Those seniors who do have good driving records, as many of them do, will find that their rates will be comparable.

WATER QUALITY

Mr. Eves: I have a question to the Minister of Health. The minister will be aware that health officials in the Kitchener-Waterloo area put out a health advisory yesterday, advising all residents of the area to boil their water for 10 minutes before using it, even if it is just to be used for brushing their teeth. The advisory was put out because of the presence of a type of coliform in the water.

Coliform, as the minister knows, can cause a number of gastrointestinal problems, including vomiting, diarrhoea and nausea. Can the minister tell us when she was first aware of the situation, the background that led to the discovery of the contaminant in the drinking water and what action is being taken to provide safeguards for the residents of the area?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I want to thank the member opposite for his question. In fact, the information I have is that the public health unit was contacted February 13 in the afternoon. It notified our public health officials the morning of

February 14. Notification to boil water went out from the ministry the afternoon of February 14.

Mr. Eves: The minister will also be aware that regional health officials have ordered the J. M. Schneider meat plant, as well as other meat processing plants, shut down until the extent of the problem is determined. However, the tests of the water were first taken on February 6 and repeated over the course of the next few days. Each test, according to published reports, showed that the contamination was getting worse as each day went along.

This means that for almost a week, Schneider and other meat processing plants were possibly using contaminated water for the processing of their products. This indeed raises a serious health concern, not just for the residents of the Kitchener-Waterloo area but for the entire province. Can the minister tell us what precautions she has ordered be taken to protect the safety and health of Ontarians who may have purchased meat products processed during this period of time?

1420

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I believe it is very important that we make sure that we have all of the facts. I would say to the member that from our perspective we are still investigating this matter to make sure that we have all of the facts and the information.

As the member will know, the Ministry of the Environment does the sampling for the region. We acknowledge in fact the importance of the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Health officials working together closely so that this information is made available not only to public health officials but also to the public so that all of the facts and the information will be known and people can boil water or respond appropriately.

Mr. Eves: I understand what the minister just said. However, the fact remains that these plants were operating during the period of time from February 6 until now, and there is at least the possibility of this contamination. I think it is incumbent upon the Minister of Health to take some precautionary steps.

The entire manner in which this issue has been handled raises some serious concerns. Apparently, the presence of contaminants in the water was first known by regional officials and Ministry of the Environment staff on February 8, that is, one week ago. The minister's officials and regional health staff must have known of the threat to human health, yet it was not until yesterday at

five o'clock that an advisory was put out warning Kitchener-Waterloo residents to boil their water.

Can the minister tell the House why it took five days for her ministry to be made aware of the contamination problem, when the ministry of the person sitting next to her knew about it on February 8, and why the residents were not ordered to take precautionary steps some days ago?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I would say to the member in answer to his first question that I gave him factual information as to the time when the ministry was notified and when the public health people took action. The local medical officer of health is taking appropriate action, such as informing people of the importance of cooking meat and boiling water and so forth.

We are also investigating the matter to ensure and improve the communication between the labs and public health officials, if it is necessary that it should be improved, so that we will have the information as expeditiously as possible.

PROPERTY SPECULATION

Mr. Laughren: I have a very direct question to the Treasurer. Could the Treasurer tell us which of the three cities of Sudbury, Brantford and Toronto had the largest percentage increase in the price of resale homes between January and December 1988?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: From my general reading of the press, I would presume it is Metropolitan Toronto.

Mr. Laughren: The minister fails. As a matter of fact—

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I should have known you are much cleverer than your leader.

Mr. Breagh: If you spent more time on this, you would know.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Was your supplementary, did the Treasurer fail?

Mr. Laughren: No, I said that the Treasurer failed. I do not have to ask that question. We know he did.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: My next guess is Sudbury.

Mr. Laughren: As a matter of fact, Brantford had the highest percentage of increase in 1988. The reason I put the question that way was that yesterday the Treasurer—and he has said it on past occasions—was trying to lead us all to believe that the problem of inflation in the housing market is a Toronto problem. That is simply not the case. It is a province-wide problem, and since this government came to power in 1985, the price of homes all across Ontario has gone up something

like 113 per cent, while the consumer price index has gone up under 15 per cent.

Mr. Speaker: I am waiting for a question.

Mr. Laughren: My question to the Treasurer is, will he now, immediately, impose a land speculation tax in Ontario?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: No, and perhaps I should sit down at this point, but I feel that since the member's preliminary comments were rather extensive, I should say that one of the attractive aspects of Brantford, perhaps over Sudbury and certainly over Metropolitan Toronto, is the quality of life that is available there.

While the increases the honourable member is referring to are undoubtedly correct, and I am very glad to be instructed by him, he would find that the housing prices are still considered by rational buyers to be reasonable in the area. If he went into the housing market in Brantford and Brant county, I can assure him that he and his family would be well accommodated for a reasonable amount, based on the indemnity that he receives for his duties here.

The nice thing about Brantford is that it is within relatively easy commuting distance of Metro Toronto or metropolitan London, metropolitan Kitchener and Waterloo and even metropolitan Caledonia. On this basis, for example, there is good Via Rail service both east and west. I heartily recommend to the honourable member or anyone else who is interested that Brantford and environs, including St. George, is one mighty fine place to live.

CONTAMINATED SOIL

Mrs. Marland: My question is for the Minister of the Environment. Last June, eight months ago, I raised an issue with him regarding the lead-contaminated soil at a Pickering housing development. At that time, he said he would take whatever action was necessary to protect the future home owners in that area.

It has now been eight months and the lead-contaminated soil is still on the construction site. It is covered with torn plastic sheeting and no liner is underneath. The longer it sits there, the more it will recontaminate the soil around the houses. Home owners will soon be moving in. Will he ensure that this soil is moved before the new home owners and their children occupy the houses?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The member will be aware that in this particular case, at some rather considerable cost to the taxpayers of the province, we addressed this particular problem that existed in Pickering as a result of a development

taking place on a property which had been approved under the previous administration for the purposes of building.

When the actual development took place a number of years after the approval was given, we discovered that there had been some contaminated material there and we decided that we would take action as quickly as possible to deal with that. There had been some very difficult negotiations that took place between the Ministry of the Environment and the people who are developing and owning the property. Ultimately, we came forward with a solution.

We are attempting to move as quickly as possible to deal with this problem by removing the last of the soil that is there, but the member will know that the soil has been moved away from the area directly involving the homes. I am hopeful that the remainder of it can be removed at the earliest opportunity.

Mrs. Marland: I am wondering how much credence there is in the assurances of the ministry. I want to give as an example to this minister the fact that it is now seven months ago that his ministry staff stood in my riding of Mississauga South and assured the people who live close to the Tonolli and the former Exide plant that the soil in that area would be removed starting early this spring. Now he is in a war of words regarding who is going to pay for it. The people in my community do not care who pays for it. They are not responsible for it being there.

My question to him is with regard to the Tonolli-Exide property. Now that his staff will not give me a direct answer when I call his office, could he give those people a direct answer? Will that soil be removed this spring and will those people be protected?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: We are attempting to negotiate an agreement in there, and I think there is a lot of goodwill all around in these negotiations.

The member will remember that in the situation with the city of Toronto, the city very quickly came to an agreement with the Ministry of the Environment on how we could work together to solve the problem. As a result, after an expenditure of some \$8 million on the soil that was contaminated in the south Riverdale area, we have a cleanup which has been completed. We are now into the Niagara Street neighbourhood attempting to do the same thing, again with the full co-operation of the city of Toronto, and I must compliment the city on its co-operation.

I expect we are going to see the same kind of co-operation in the Peel region. I know that the

member herself will be wanting to see that kind of co-operation so that we can move as expeditiously as possible to ensure that the soil is removed at the earliest opportunity.

At the conclusion of my answer to the question, I want to extend to the member for Mississauga South my own personal congratulations on a very important day in history, her birthday today.

1430

RECYCLING

Mr. Velshi: My question is also to the Minister of the Environment. I was pleased to see that the city of North York has become the latest to join the ranks of those municipalities which have implemented the highly successful blue box program as part of their efforts to decrease the amount of waste entering their landfills.

I realize that this program has become extremely popular with residents, as it allows them to make an actual contribution to helping us meet the challenges we are facing in the area of waste management. Could the minister update us on the blue box program?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I would be delighted to do so. I was happy to have the opportunity to be in North York yesterday with the chairman of the regional municipality of Metropolitan Toronto, Alan Tonks; the mayor of North York, Mel Lastman; officials from Ontario Multi-Material Recycling Inc., including Harold Corrigan, and a large delegation of local people who are interested in the issue of recycling.

I was delighted that in fact there are now more than 100 municipalities in Ontario, with North York coming on stream, that are involved in the blue box program and that I was able to indicate the support of some \$707,000 as the ministry's contribution to that.

I think what was equally significant, perhaps surprising however, was that I indicated there would also be \$66,000 coming to help purchase what we call a shredder-mixing machine that will convert grass clippings, leaves and other plant debris into useful compost.

In North York we are going beyond the blue box program, and all of the local officials there were talking about innovative new ways to bring other things into that recycling stream.

Mr. Velshi: The minister has answered my supplementary also, in which case I would like to ask him if all the soft drink manufacturers in Ontario are now on board in terms of the recycling of their bottles.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I am sorry I answered the supplementary that the member anticipated I might leave time for, but I can indicate to him, because it is an excellent supplementary question that was forthcoming and spontaneous, that all of the sectors appear to be coming on stream.

I have been involved in discussions with the plastics industry, with those who are involved in the production or distribution of groceries in Ontario, with newspaper publishers. Virtually everybody who makes a contribution to the waste stream in Ontario has been in discussion with ministry officials or with me to discuss what plans he would have to ensure that the products he produces in fact are products which are recycled in this province.

We want to ensure, for instance, that there are markets for those recycled materials. We want to ensure that virtually every possible material that we can find—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. I am glad it is not the birthday of the member for Don Mills, too.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. Mackenzie: I have a question for the Minister of Labour. The minister will be aware, from recent correspondence he has had, that back in the spring of 1988, two employees of the Giant Yellowknife Mines Ltd. of Schumacher, employed in a gold processing mill, were overcome while engaged in processing computer parts of aircraft parts brought into Ontario from the United States. Similar problems have existed with reprocessing in Manitoba. Can the minister tell us his position with regard to the entry of these materials into Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: No, I cannot. In fact, if the member for Hamilton East could use the mechanism that perhaps was used by the member for Don Mills (Mr. Velshi) and the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley), I could have given him a fuller answer here at question period. But I cannot give him those specific details now. I do not have them with me and I do not recall them. I could, if the member likes, take the question as notice, or perhaps he has something to say in his supplementary.

Mr. Mackenzie: I can send another copy of the letter to the minister. He has had it for several weeks and has not, as yet, responded to it.

It also points out that one Timmins gold mill has been transporting incinerated sewage sludge from Toronto to sewage incinerators for reprocessing. The Ministry of the Environment has investigated and found the sewage sludge contains dioxin and a variety of other exotic

materials. Can the minister tell us if he approves of this exposure of the workers and what steps he has taken to guarantee that the workers are safe in these operations?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I think the member for Hamilton East knows full well that I do not approve of any circumstance where a worker is exposed to a hazardous substance, except controlled rigidly pursuant to the terms of our regulations dealing with hazardous, dangerous and toxic substances. I do not have further information on the specifics he has referred to. He says he sent me a letter. I will investigate that and see if ministry officials are perhaps looking into it and preparing a response for him.

TORONTO AREA TRANSPORTATION

Mr. Cousens: I have a question for the Minister of Transportation. It has to do with the minister's new direction to solve the highway problems and the chaos around Metropolitan Toronto by making it more stringent and more difficult to obtain a licence in Ontario. On the other hand, there is another point of view in his ministry when the assistant deputy minister, safety and regulation, Margaret Kelch, who as registrar of motor vehicles, is quoted as saying: "I have asked our critics to prove you would get a safer driver by having more extensive or more difficult tests. None of them have."

Could the minister explain the confusion? He is going in the direction of having far more stringent safety and driver training and driver testing. On the other hand, his assistant deputy minister is saying that is not really needed. Could he tell us really where his ministry is coming from?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: Once again, the member for Markham has shown where the real confusion lies in this House, and it is with him. The issue is clearly not designed to ease the traffic congestion problems within Metro or Ontario, as he is well aware. The issue is one to direct our energies at getting off the roads those people we think should not be there by action of accumulating numerous demerit points—of course, he would not have any personal experience with that system, I am sure—and people who are constantly in violation of the Highway Traffic Act.

Mr. Cousens: I commend the minister, because I want to see us do everything we can to clean up the roads and have good drivers there. But I think there are a number of initiatives this minister has to take. It has to do with driver testing centres. There used to be six; there are now two. We have applicants waiting for up to

two months to get a driver's licence. We have staffing at a minimum to deal with the backlog. We have Metro drivers now facing increases in insurance. We have a crisis in Metropolitan Toronto on our highways.

It has to do with far more than just driver incompetence. It is one of the many areas that has to be addressed. What we are really looking for is an overall policy and strategy by his ministry to come up with a solution to the needs we have in this province.

I support the need for something there, but what is he really doing to come up with an overall comprehensive strategy that puts the responsibility on the government to come up with some solutions to the hazards we have on the roads, to the shortage of highways, to the failure of the infrastructure, to the failure of his government to do what is needed to solve—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Fulton: On a scale of 1 to 10, I think the member got one point with that question in his leadership bid.

He full well knows the efforts and the energies this government has exercised in the last three and a half years. He was there when we turned the sod for Highway 407, which his government sat on for 35 years. He was a member of the government when it cancelled the GO extension and the GO advanced light rail transit system. He was a member of the government when it moved out the one remaining driver examination centre in Metropolitan Toronto. He moved it.

This is the member for Markham who constantly criticizes this government for spending money, and we have done more in this ministry than those guys did in 35 years.

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Mr. Daigeler: My question is to the Minister of Colleges and Universities. I am sure the minister knows that last week our former leader, Stuart Smith, urged half of Ontario's community colleges to become polytechnical institutes that offer degree-granting programs in technology. Stuart Smith also urged the colleges to combine their resources with neighbouring universities to offer degree programs.

May I ask the minister whether she supports these proposals, and if so, how is she trying to bring them about?

1440

Hon. Mrs. McLeod: I think it is important to recognize that Dr. Smith was speaking to a conference of our colleges and that one of the focuses of that conference was on the review we

are undertaking of the college system. For that reason, I think we need to put Dr. Smith's comments in the context of the review we have undertaken. I think members of the House may be aware that the review of the college system is looking at the original mandate of the colleges, how that has been fulfilled and in what ways it may need to change.

One of the issues we are looking at is the relationship between the colleges and the universities. I think it is extremely important to recognize that there are a great many views on what that relationship should be. There are some people who have called for some colleges to grant degrees and there are some who have suggested that perhaps that degree granting should be very specialized, in a sense, creating more polytechnic institutes. But there are many others who feel very strongly that any degree granting would really compromise the mandate of the colleges.

What I do find is there is a very widespread sense that there need to be closer linkages between colleges and universities and we need to look at the flexibility between the two systems, particularly in the area of transferability of credits. In that latter area, we are already taking some very active steps. We had a conference bringing college and university people together, and there have been a number of specific initiatives undertaken by colleges and universities since that time.

Mr. Daigeler: I thank the minister for this answer. I very much look forward to the report being completed soon, because I think it is a very important matter.

Stuart Smith also stated that, in his opinion, community colleges are viewed by politicians, some businesses and the public as second class, while universities are seen as the more prestigious post-secondary institutions. This is a view that concerns me greatly, especially when we look at the shortage of skilled labour, for which the work of the colleges is so important. Can the minister advise this House what she is doing in her ministry to improve the understanding and appreciation of the work of the colleges?

Hon. Mrs. McLeod: I do feel this is a very important question, because I believe the colleges have probably been successful beyond what anybody imagined they could be when they were originally founded. They have provided access to post-secondary education in the applied fields of arts and technology, they have had a very high quality of training and they have been relevant to the communities and to the workpla-

ce. Their graduates have a remarkable placement record.

Yet it is true, as the honourable member has mentioned, that there is a shortage in some areas of skills which the colleges served, and while we have seen a very large increase in enrolment in the universities, we have not seen that large increase in the colleges. We are not sure of the factors that are bringing this about. It may be that this relationship between colleges and universities is part of it, and we are looking at that. It may be that people do not know enough about the opportunities in the college system. We certainly have to look at relationships between colleges and high schools and colleges and the workplace. Our review is undertaking to do all of that.

If I can take just a moment, I think it is so essential that we recognize that this mandate is valuable and that we at no point accept a description of the college system in Ontario as a second-class system.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. Mrs. McLeod: It is first class in all ways.

FIREFIGHTING

Mr. Farnan: My question is for the Minister of Natural Resources. A couple of weeks ago I asked the minister about the intention of the Ministry of Natural Resources to reduce the number and the size of fire crews to fight fires across northern Ontario. Yesterday, apparently the news finally came out that 230 firefighters will lose their jobs.

In 1986, the loss in valuable timber alone was over \$20 million. That is by his own ministry's statistics. Can the minister tell us how it is that by reducing the size of his experienced fire crews, they are going to do a better job than has been done in the past when we have already had severe losses. How is it that smaller crews are going to do a better job?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I thought I gave the member a very explicit answer that was not hard to understand. I suggested to him that in the new era of fighting forest fires, where we have now nine CL-215 water bombers, there is a great ability to respond immediately, on a first-strike basis, to fires that are initiated. To modernize our way of fighting fires really has to do with this modern concept. While the fire crews are reduced in numbers of people at the crew level from five to three, the fact of the matter is that we are putting more crews in. I made that statement to the honourable member and it was just a matter of putting the numbers together.

The fact of the matter is, when we talk about 170 crews with five people in them, we are increasing the number of crews to 207 three-man crews. I told the member all that long ago. I do not know how much he wants to squeeze this issue before he goes back to tell his people that we have the finest firefighting capability of any jurisdiction in the country, and that we are doing a great job fighting fires, some 3,200 fires that started last year, some \$50 million in expenditures.

I am very proud of my firefighters and what they are doing. The fact that we are modernizing it is something that we meant to do for the simple reason that we are modernizing the way we attack fires, and it has been very successful.

Mr. Hampton: The minister says that he is decreasing the size of the crews but he is going to have more crews. The *Toronto Star* notes that in the Algonquin region, for example, there are going to be fewer crews. I just checked with some of the district offices in the northwestern region, and they are going to have a reduction in the total number of crews.

If he is reducing the number of people—and from what the minister said, my calculations say he is reducing it by about 230 people at least, which is what the paper says—and he is not putting more crews into Algonquin, and he is not putting more crews in the northwest where he had a serious fire problem last year, where is he putting them? Where is he putting the new crews that he is establishing?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: This member has a complete misunderstanding of firefighting in the province. The fact of the matter is that where the crews are deployed has to do with where most of the problems are, how we react to fires, how we get back on the first strike.

Mr. Hampton: It is a good question: Where are you putting the crews?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Be quiet for a minute, as I was when the member posed the question. I did not interrupt him once. I might interrupt him another time, but not when he is posing a question to me. Having said that, I would ask the member to mark this down carefully, then we will get someone to take it through to its conclusion.

The move from a five-person to a three-person core will increase the number of crews from 170 in 1988 to 207 in 1989-90; the member is not marking this down. This will increase the number of crews by 37. The member did not mark that down, so he is going to come back next week with the same damned question.

HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION

Mr. Villeneuve: My question is to the Minister of Transportation. To date the Minister of Transportation has not committed his government nor his ministry to a construction schedule for Highway 416 down to Highway 401. In the last election campaign the Premier talked of accomplishing this by 1994 and he was quite loose and forthcoming with dates and figures.

Will the minister now outline the government's construction schedule and stages to extend Highway 416 down to Highway 401?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I really do not know where the member has been, but it was clearly not in eastern Ontario. The very same question was raised by my friend the member for Ottawa West (Mr. Chiarelli) only a week or so ago. In fact, the highway will be under construction this year. We have made funding commitments, peaking in 1992, to the tune of \$58 million. If that is not a commitment, I do not know what is.

Mr. Villeneuve: This highway is needed and it is badly needed to help the economy of eastern Ontario. Ottawa needs the highway and certainly municipalities such as those south of the Rideau River, Oxford on Rideau, South Gower, Edwardsburgh and Kemptville need it to boost their economies. They have affordable lots for sale. We need a road into Ottawa.

Will the minister give the House and the people of Ontario a firm schedule as to commencement dates and anticipated completion dates for this highway?

1450

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I am really surprised to hear from that member on that side of the House, questions with respect to delaying Highway 416 in any way. It sounds as if he is reading from some of the speeches that I have made.

Mr. Sterling: Remember the Queensway, Ed?

Mr. Villeneuve: Yes, what about the Queensway?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: With respect to the Queensway, we are a year ahead of the schedule the former government had in place. With respect to Highway 416, nobody wants a four-lane highway into our nation's capital more than we do or I do. If the member was so interested, why did the Conservative government delay that highway for 31 years?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Oxford would like to ask a question. Would that be all right?

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. Tatham: My question is for the Minister of Labour. I have had several phone conversations on Bill 208. The minister stated at the time of introduction of this bill:

"It flows from a vision that the productivity and effectiveness of Ontario enterprise are nourished by the value we place in fair and equitable workplaces; workplaces where labour-management relations are based on trust and mutual understanding, where health and safety are protected and in which the exploitation of women and minorities is not tolerated."

One of the ways in which this bill was to achieve this idea was through additional educational initiatives, such as uniform training programs administered by a new occupational health and safety agency. Given the critical role this agency will play in the new system of workplace health and safety regulations, can the minister tell this House exactly how this agency will function and, in particular, what the ministry's role will be in the future? Will this government continue to take as active a role in the protection of workers in the workplaces of this province as it has done in the past?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Those are very good questions.

Let me deal first with the question of the continuing role of the government of Ontario through the Ministry of Labour. Obviously, the government and the ministry have overall responsibility for ensuring that we have done everything possible within the government to ensure healthy and safe workplaces. That, in fact, is why we are proposing in the legislation to create a new agency.

The significant bias of the bill is for training and education. Initially, the specific responsibilities of the agency will be to develop the training programs that will allow us, in the fullness of time, to ensure that in every workplace in this province there are people who have specific training and understand health and safety issues in those workplaces. That is really what the agency is going to start off doing once the bill is passed.

Mr. Tatham: This agency is going to rely heavily upon the certified members of the joint health and safety committees whom it trains. This legislation gives these workers the right to stop work in specific circumstances. How can the minister ensure that these members will be properly trained to carry out such duties? Has the

minister given any thought to the way in which such a procedure will be implemented?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: We have given a great deal of thought to that. I do want to tell my friend the member for Oxford that the way we will finally put into place mechanisms to ensure that the full thrust of Bill 208 can be realized is through the consultative process in the agency. In fact, one of the things we have been able to achieve over the past 10 years in this province in health and safety is a good, solid framework of labour-management co-operation within our workplaces.

The internal responsibility system has a good 10 years of experience, and we are counting on that and on the bipartite nature of the agency and the procedures it will design co-operatively between labour and management to work out those details. The bill in fact provides for that so that the certification mechanism does not come into place before all those details have been worked out, as I said, on a co-operative basis.

ONTARIO LOTTERY CORP.

Mr. Farnan: My question is to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. Norman Morris is the former president and chief executive officer of the Ontario Lottery Corp. During his tenure of office, the Ontario Lottery Corp. had extraordinary profits in eight successive years. He was fired, and very recently a financial settlement was made with Mr. Morris for unlawful dismissal. Will the minister come forward now and let us know what the nature of this settlement was? We believe it was a six-figure settlement. Will he reveal the nature of the settlement, and is he prepared to have this settlement come under some form of scrutiny?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: I thank the member for the question. The question has been raised with me before, not in this Legislature but in other places. I am advised that under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, that information should not be disclosed.

Mr. Farnan: If the shareholders of any corporation were in a situation where the chief executive officer was fired and a settlement was made for unlawful dismissal, there would be a public accounting to those shareholders. The taxpayers of this province are the shareholders in this government, and they have the right to know if the government has messed up on this and if, in order to cover its tracks, it has had to make an exorbitant settlement to Mr. Morris.

Will the minister allow this issue to go before the standing committee on public accounts so the

taxpayers of this province can know how this government is spending the tax dollars of this province?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: Again, I can tell the member that quite a bit of negotiation has gone on between the Ontario Lottery Corp. people, the government and Mr. Morris. We feel the settlement that has been made is fair and equitable both to Mr. Morris and to the province.

I might also tell the member, since he is talking about the Ontario Lottery Corp., that he will be receiving very shortly our latest financial statement. I think he will be very pleased with the job that has been done for Ontario by the lottery over the last several months.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Mr. Sterling: My question is to the Minister of Government Services. I recently received a reply from the minister with regard to a contract he has let to Executive Travel Centre to handle all the government of Ontario's air travel arrangements for the next three years.

I asked for specific information as to the individuals who were behind this contract and exactly what the advantage was of the Executive Travel agency over, I believe, another dozen that applied for this.

In the minister's response he said to me:

"Access is denied in part to the proposals and some of the evaluation criteria relating to third parties. The provision applies because the records contain financial and commercial information submitted in confidence which could reasonably be expected to cause injury pursuant to section 17 of the freedom of information act. In addition, personal information is severed pursuant to section 21."

Is this the kind of information we can receive about substantial contracts that are going on and will favour and financially benefit a particular company? Can we not find out what—

Mr. Speaker: You have had ample time to try.

Hon. Mr. Patten: I think the member knows full well that there are provisions as to the sort of information we do share. If the member feels there is information that is warranted and that he is entitled to, he can certainly apply for that information and seek the support of the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner.

Of course, the Information and Privacy Commissioner will make a ruling and either provide him with the information or be able to explain why it might place this company in jeopardy to share such information.

1500

PETITIONS

TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION

Mr. McLean: I have a petition signed by 144 teachers:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"To amend the Teachers' Superannuation Act, 1983, in order that all teachers who retired prior to May 31, 1982, have their pensions recalculated on the best five years rather than at the present seven or 10 years.

"The proposed amendment would make the five-year criteria applicable to all retired teachers and would eliminate the present inequitable treatment."

OVERCROWDING IN SCHOOLS

Mr. Cousens: I have a petition addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, signed by over 100 constituents.

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Given that the present population of Brother André high school in Markham consists of 1,500 students and is at capacity; and

"That the projected enrolment for September 1990 is approximately 2,700, with the majority of increased enrolment at the grades 9 and 10 level; and

"That the potential overcrowding will have serious repercussions for students and teachers alike;

"The Ministry of Education, in consultation with the York Region Roman Catholic Separate School Board, move immediately to approve a new high school for occupancy in September 1991 in Milliken Mills that will include initially grades 9 and 10 and therefore alleviate potential intolerable conditions at Brother André high school."

It is so submitted and signed.

YORK REGION LAND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Cousens: I have a second petition to the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the dramatic growth rate in York region has placed extreme pressure on the municipal planning process and, given that

serious allegations have been made regarding the integrity of this process in York region, we strongly urge the provincial government to conduct a full and open public inquiry into the municipal planning process and land development practices of York region."

It is so submitted.

REPORT BY COMMITTEE

STANDING COMMITTEE ON REGULATIONS AND PRIVATE BILLS

Mr. Furlong from the standing committee on regulations and private bills presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bills without amendment:

Bill Pr43, An Act to revive I. Gosselin & F. Camiré Developments Limited and to change its name to Northern Frontier Develop. Ltd.

Bill Pr74, An Act respecting the City of London.

Your committee recommends that Bill Pr83, An Act to incorporate Ukrainian Evangelical Baptist Association of Eastern Canada, be not reported.

Motion agreed to.

MOTION

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

Hon. Mrs. McLeod moved that, notwithstanding standing orders 2(a) and 71(b), the House shall meet at 11 a.m. on Thursday, February 16, 1989, to consider one item of private members' public business and that, notwithstanding standing order 71(h), the requirement for notice be waived with respect to ballot item 63.

Mr. Reville: The New Democratic Party is clearly going to agree to the motion, but I think it should be noted that we normally sit for two hours on a Thursday morning. Given the government's insistence that there is a great deal of business to be done, it seems odd that we are not meeting until 11 a.m.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour will say "aye."

All those opposed will say "nay."

In my opinion the "ayes" have it.

Motion agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Mr. Reycraft: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: Before we begin on the debate on the motion of the member for York South, I would

like to advise that there has been agreement by the three party whips that we share time this afternoon. It has been agreed that the wrapup speeches will start at 4:45 and that the balance of the time will be divided evenly by the three parties. As well, the wrapup speeches will be about 20 minutes in length for each of the three parties.

Mr. Speaker: I know the motion has not been put yet, but is there agreement?

Some hon. members: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: We can agree then that the parties will share equal times and that the windup speeches shall commence at 4:45.

Mr. Breagh: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I am a little concerned about something which just transpired in here. It was my understanding that the House leaders had agreed to tomorrow's schedule, which involved a slight variation in standing orders. I heard you put a question that, in my reading of the standing orders, would have required unanimous consent. It did not get that. I am a little at a loss here. I understood that there was some negotiation and an agreement had been reached to sit tomorrow at 11, but I am worried that a precedent may have been set here that you can set aside the standing orders of the House by a majority vote rather than by unanimous consent. I would not like it to be taken as precedent.

Mr. Speaker: There was a motion put.

Mr. Breagh: Yes, there was.

Mr. Speaker: I agree, and the motion was carried. There was ample time for the House to discuss it, debate it and vote on it, and the House decided the same as the House would decide on any standing order.

Mr. Cousens: Just set a precedent, Michael.

Mr. Breagh: I think we're all going to regret that.

Mr. Speaker: Where were we?

Mr. Breagh: I think we're all rethinking what we just did.

Mr. Speaker: There was agreement, as I understand, for the times for the debate this afternoon. I will recognize the member for Riverdale to put the motion.

Mr. Reville: I wonder if I might get unanimous consent of the House to move the motion on behalf of the member for York South (Mr. B. Rae), who is not in the House at the moment.

Mr. Speaker: I will certainly find out. Is there unanimous consent?

Agreed to.

NURSING SERVICES

Mr. Reville moved, in the absence of Mr. B. Rae, motion 5 under standing order 70(a):

That the government lacks the confidence of the House because of its failure to address in any meaningful way the crisis in the supply of nurses within the health care system, both with regard to the recruitment of adequate numbers of people and the retention of nursing professionals within the system, which follows from the unwillingness to address structural issues about the role, responsibilities, respect for and compensation of nurses, the result being that people in Ontario who need hip and knee replacements in order to retain their mobility and the chance to live independently outside institutions are forced to wait many months to get them, thousands of people—including children—needing heart surgery are forced to wait through months of being scheduled, cancelled and rescheduled for the surgery they need, and because hospital emergency departments (for lack of nurses) are forced to restrict noncritical admissions, patients seeking emergency care often have to travel considerable distances to find an emergency department that will see them for treatment.

Mr. Speaker: In the absence of the member for York South, the member for Riverdale has moved the motion of nonconfidence. I would remind all members that the debate will take place for the balance of this sitting and the standing orders are very clear that the Speaker shall interrupt the debate and call a vote on the matter at 10 minutes to six. If there is a recorded vote, then the bells will ring for up to five minutes.

1510

Mr. Reville: It is a pleasure for me to be the leadoff speaker for the New Democratic Party with respect to our motion of nonconfidence in the government and specifically in the Ministry of Health, which we believe has shown regrettable dereliction of duty with regard to a critical health care profession for any province.

It is known by now, I know, because of the discussions that have occurred in the Legislature, that nursing is the largest profession in the province and is a profession that has increasingly come under siege, not only because of issues like pay, although there are significant issues regarding pay, but also because of the structural way in which the health care system has developed and because of the failure of government, this government in particular, to realize that structur-

al changes must be made in order to give nurses control over the development and implementation of policy under which they are required to work.

That this is a critical issue is made patently clear by the announcement of the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) today. My leader has already pointed out the amazing coincidence that on the very day our nonconfidence motion on a range of issues with regard to nursing was to be debated, we finally have the statement by the minister that amendments to Ontario regulation 518/88 have been made.

Of course, those regulatory changes are changes that have been long recommended to the Minister of Health by nurses, by others and by us. It would be inappropriate for me to suggest we are not happy to see those changes, although we believe those changes have been too long in coming. We also believe those changes are very much an initial step in beginning to rectify the well-known problems in the nursing profession that have been brought to the attention of government, as the minister points out, by the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario, the Hospital Council of Metropolitan Toronto, the Ontario Nurses' Association and the Advisory Committee on Nursing Manpower, which of course is the government's own advisory committee appointed by government to advise it on issues with respect to the nursing profession.

Perhaps in a more immediate way, these issues have been addressed by literally hundreds and thousands of nurses themselves who have reported to members of the Legislature and the government, in various ways, the kinds of conditions under which they work and the kinds of risks nurses themselves believe patients are exposed to due to, concerns they have been pointing out about the nursing profession.

Last year, earlier in this session, my leader and I had an opportunity to visit the nurses who work the floors of our hospitals and who provide the care for us when we are ill. We were both moved and amazed by the stories we heard.

We heard of young nurses with a couple of years experience who, due to cutbacks and the difficulty of attracting staff nurses, were being put into these situations that are the most extreme in hospitals, where patients are exposed to life-threatening situations. They were required throughout their shift to care for those patients, and sometimes during shift changes were exposed to having to care for a number of patients they very much considered to be too many. They would have preferred a one-to-one ratio, particu-

larly when a patient was in a life-threatening situation on some of the complex life-support systems that have been developed. They had to rush between stations in the intensive care units to monitor several patients at once.

In some cases, and in the more modern ICUs, it is sometimes possible to move a wall between intensive care beds so that it is much easier for one nurse to monitor two people, although the preferable situation is to have one nurse to one patient in those cases.

We were told by staff nurses that on occasion they actually had to hurry from room to room and deal with things I have very little knowledge of—defibrillation and such techniques that I could not manage, or pronounce probably—and that it was the kind of work stress to which they were exposed daily.

I have had an opportunity now to travel much more extensively in the province than I had when I first met with nurses at the Wellesley Hospital, and have learned that this, contrary to what the Minister of Health sometimes says, is not only a problem in Metropolitan Toronto, although the circumstances are somewhat different in Metropolitan Toronto, Mr. Speaker, as you will appreciate. It is somewhat easier for a nurse who wants to work to have a choice of working opportunities in an area where there are many, many hospitals. I suppose there are 30 hospital opportunities in Toronto and you could go and work for an agency and then have some control over the kind of shift you work and the location in which you work.

Those are issues that of course are of a great deal of concern to nurses. We have a number of small urban areas in the province where if you want to work as a nurse, where you work is, say, at the Welland County General Hospital. I spoke to nurses there and discovered that the situation was a little bit different there, because many of the nurses needed to work in order to contribute to the family income. In those cases, sometimes the family income would be interrupted by layoffs, where the husband would be laid off at the plant and it became absolutely imperative for the wife to work and put the bread on the table.

What I discovered in those situations, in talking to a large number of nurses, was that the younger nurses intended to leave the profession as soon as they could find another opportunity. They were going to leave town or they were going to leave nursing.

The older nurses felt they were just going to have to continue on nursing, but they did not like the situation. They spoke to me of shifts that used

to have 12 nurses and now commonly have eight nurses and the same number of people are being cared for. As you can see with fairly rudimentary mathematics, the nurses were required to do at least a third more work. There is another way of looking at it, which would say they were doing 50 per cent more work. But in any event, they were being required to do nursing that was much more intensive, even though they were not necessarily in an intensive care unit.

One of the other issues that is raised frequently by nurses relates again to the hospital cutbacks and the reduction in support staff. I can give you a simple example that is readily understandable. I talked to nurses at the Wellesley Hospital who told me it was not that long ago that there was an orderly for each floor and that the practice now is to have an orderly for five floors. This means nurses are now doing work that used to be done by support staff, and they find that work added on to their nursing workload creates other obvious pressures.

That is partly called the portering issue, which means nurses are now required to leave the floor with the patient in a wheelchair for discharge or transfer. Those transfers used to be effected through the use of support personnel and are not currently being done in that way.

1520

That has a lot to do with the political economy of health and the attempt by the Ontario Hospital Association, and in another remove, the Ministry of Health, to reduce the costs that attract to the running of hospitals. Of course, it has had a negative impact on the practice of the nursing profession, an impact the nurses feel every day in their work.

Mr. Speaker, you will be aware, because we have addressed this in the Legislature on a number of occasions, that nurses have not sat idly by while their profession is under threat and in crisis. In fact, nurses everywhere have been speaking out about the concerns they see, about their concerns for the care of their patients, and have developed among other things reports such as this one, which I am sure all members have had a chance to read.

This happens to be a report commissioned by the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario. Their response is called "Sorry, No Care Available Due to Nursing Shortage." The response is to an analysis in a labour market context which was commissioned by the RNAO and executed by Noah Meltz and Jill Marzetti. It is an excellent document. I am pleased it is here, although the recommendations made are not, in

the main, brand-new recommendations. These recommendations have been made by nurses for some time. I think nurses realize that to get the attention of the government, sometimes it is necessary to get the reports up to a particular height. Sometimes the government will then take notice.

As it happens, this very day, not one hour ago, an envelope arrived on my desk. It is some information that has been sent to me by the Ontario Nurses' Association, probably because—

Mr. Philip: You're the NDP Health critic.

Mr. Reville: It is partly because I am the NDP Health critic. It is also partly because yesterday, on Valentine's Day, in Ottawa there was an information picket at the Ottawa Civic Hospital and the Ottawa General Hospital, as well as at selected sites throughout the region, from 1100 hours to 1300 hours, which I take to be between 11 a.m. and one o'clock over the lunch hour, to protest current working conditions in area hospitals.

This is from their media release: Nurses feel strongly that they are more subject to burnout than people in other professions; that nurses are leaving in favour of part-time nursing; that they do not have time to give the quality of care that they want to; and that health care administrators are unwilling to provide adequate staffing, all leading to high levels of frustration within the profession. Staff nurses presently have no input into the health care system, which is inconsistent with the input of other health professions. Nurses are locked into their position and the responsibilities and pay associated with it, with little or no hope of future advancement.

These are key concerns among staff nurses. "Improvements in general working conditions must be made if we are to alleviate the present shortage and ensure the future of the profession."

In one respect, the nurses' concerns have been answered by the statement made today by the Minister of Health. That, of course, relates to a change in terms of professional advisory committees and other committees charged with the conduct of hospitals. It is my hope that these changes will be implemented as quickly as possible, and that staff nurses in particular will take their long-denied but necessary place in the management of hospitals and in the development and implementation of hospital policies. That is only one of the concerns addressed in reports like "Sorry, No Care Available Due to Nursing Shortage."

Included with the press release is a letter that describes in more detail some of the issues facing

nurses in the Ottawa area. When the Minister of Health takes a look at the Hansard of this—or perhaps she is watching even now on a private television screen somewhere; I hope so—she will realize that she is dealing not with a cyclical problem and not with a Metro problem, but with a problem that has been developing, that will not go away by merely waiting and that is not restricted to Metropolitan Toronto but is a problem throughout the health care system, throughout this province, and quite frankly, throughout other jurisdictions.

However, it is the Minister of Health's responsibility to take care of this jurisdiction and it is our contention that unless further steps follow the announcement of today, we are going to find that nurses are going to continue to be under severe stress. Some of them will respond to that stress by finding other work. I have certainly spoken to nurses who think it is much less stressful and much more rewarding to become real estate agents, for instance.

Mr. Philip: Drug salesmen.

Mr. Reville: Detail person, as offered to me by my colleague the member for Etobicoke-Rexdale. Of course, we all know that the term "detail man" nowadays is not current because many of the people doing that work for pharmaceutical companies are in fact women and many of them were trained as nurses to begin with.

One of the most devastating documents I have had a chance to read lately is a report, commissioned by the Hospital Council of Metropolitan Toronto, which deals with an analysis of job satisfaction among hospital staff nurses. If it were my responsibility to run the health care system in Ontario instead of just to criticize it, this report would make me stay up nights, because this report indicates there is overwhelming dissatisfaction among the very professionals who are evaluating their own profession.

When that occurs among any group of workers, we know that swift and decisive action needs to be taken or it is going to be difficult to attract young people into that profession, or once people have begun that profession, to keep them there. This is a problem that is an everyday concern in northern Ontario, the question of the attraction of health care professionals and the retention of health care professionals once they are there. It is, I think, a matter of extreme concern, and should be a matter of extreme concern to this government, that many nurses would not recommend to their children that they follow them into that profession.

That is a very telling attitude. It says something about changes in the way women view their work and their role. Those are changes I applaud, but the health care system is going to have to wake up and realize that women are not prepared to trail around behind some gentleman in a white coat with a stethoscope and an MD stuck on him, that those days of martyrdom are gone and should be gone. I am glad they are gone, but the system has not caught up yet; for sure the system has not caught up.

There are nurses who are far more skilled in a number of procedures than any physician is ever going to be, yet it is the physicians who sweep through the wards and have managed to maintain control of all the power structures. Some physicians have seen the light. They realize that this situation cannot go on and they are now belatedly joining the nursing profession and demanding that changes be made. I am glad to see that it is possible for us to learn things.

1530

There are a number of problems in the health care system. We can avoid one of the problems by ensuring that those parts of the system that are very strongly in place do not deteriorate because the nursing profession is under too much stress.

It is possible to look at the way nurses are remunerated and to do that right now; to look at the educational opportunities that are available to nurses and to attend to that right now; to make sure that these regulatory changes that we heard announced today in fact do give nurses real power in terms of the management of the health care system and in terms of the development of policy programs within the health care system.

It is not at all sure that the regulatory changes that have been announced will do that. There may be some empowerment that has to occur in addition. It may not be sufficient to have nurses there at the table, but that will be a start.

Mr. Speaker, you will hear more from my colleagues throughout the afternoon. This is a matter about which the New Democratic Party feels very urgently. We pledge ourselves to continue to work with nurses and those who care about health to ensure that this crisis is alleviated, and alleviated properly. It is because the government has failed to attend to these problems that the New Democratic Party has no confidence in the government.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. M. C. Ray): The next speaker, the member for Simcoe West.

Mr. McCague: I am pleased to join in the discussion of our health care system and, in particular, health care as it applies to the valuable

contribution of the nurses involved with that. Unfortunately, I had the opportunity to be in hospital not too long ago. I found the doctors were quite short and kept on the move, and where I got the most pleasure was from the treatment I got from the nurses. I do not know whether I am any different from other members of this House, but I doubt it very much.

I want to take this opportunity to put on the record two or three things as they apply to my riding. I am pleased to see the parliamentary assistant to the minister here in the minister's absence. Members will note that the parliamentary assistant has been studying health care in a much warmer climate and is showing the effects of it, as he sits in his seat here today.

The minister was kind enough to have recently, just a couple of weeks ago, approved 25 additional beds for a nursing home in Collingwood, which will allow for the construction of a new building with approximately 60 beds. The minister did act fairly quickly when I complained about the telephone system as it applied to the ambulance service in my riding. There are quite a few other things that she has not seen her way clear to be so supportive of, at least to this point.

In the last election, the member for Dufferin-Peel (Mrs. Wilson) took over the parliamentary responsibilities for the Orangeville hospital, and the parliamentary assistant will be aware that the people there are upset because there has been a cap of \$20 million put on the government's contribution to the costs. Even though it is true that there is a letter on file from some person in the ministry agreeing to a \$20-million contribution to the capital cost, that came late in the planning process and as a great surprise to the people involved there.

The people in Collingwood have been working diligently to raise money as their contribution towards the capital cost of renovations or a new hospital in that town. One of the things that is really disturbing about that is that in a relatively small place, they raised \$4 million after the Premier (Mr. Peterson) had come up and encouraged them to do that and given them not a full assurance, but encouragement to proceed with this. He thought the government would be able to fund its share of the work that was necessary in Collingwood, only to find the government dragging its feet.

I know that the government does not have a bottomless pit from which to get funds to build new hospitals, but I think it is wrong and it is very difficult for local people when the government encourages them to raise those kinds of sums of

money and then delays and delays the implementation of the whole program. It is very disconcerting for the community.

There is one other aspect of the way the minister seems to be treating these issues. It is very difficult to get somebody to come right out and say, "The minister said we could get some money in our town"—X, Y or Z—"if we could only find some way of rationalizing the doctor situation." I think that means, "If you, Mr. Hospital Administrator, or the hospital board could persuade all the doctors to go on salary, then we might be able to approve your capital costs." I cannot say with all surety that is the way the ministry is leaning, but I have fairly positive indications that that is the way it seems to be going.

I am starting to get calls from people who are concerned about the backlogs for heart bypass surgery. I have not run into one yet who is really impatient. The longest one reported to me in my constituency is now four months. I do recognize it is a problem which is being brought to the minister's attention by nurses, doctors, administrators, people needing the surgery and so forth.

One item for which the ministry has some responsibility is the matter of the integrated homemaker program. I guess there is no issue on which I had more letters than when it appeared that the Red Cross might have to discontinue its service. It was encouraging that the funds were provided to cover the deficit. What will happen in the future is hard to know, but as we all know, the cost of care at home is probably a tenth of what it is in the hospitals and much lower than it is in nursing homes, so I hope the ministry will see its way clearly to funding that and allowing those nurses to continue.

I have a lot of constituents who are upset. It seems to be that doctors can get their patients' attention fairly quickly. Doctors are concerned about the imposed settlement they received from the ministry. They in turn have quite a few of their patients upset about the same thing.

For the life of me, I cannot understand why the ministry would want to roll back the salaries of optometrists. There must be some hidden plan over there in which the government wants to whack away at some of the professionals. I do not think personally that it is wise. I think that kind of bashing runs through the whole community and does nothing but lower the opinion of government in the minds of many of our citizens.

I will leave the rest of our party's time for others in our party who wish to speak.

The Acting Speaker: The next speaker, the member for Elgin.

1540

Miss Roberts: Today we are facing an exciting and challenging time in the health history of our province. We have created in this province a health care system that is second to none, a system that is valued and highly valued by its citizens. Yet health care as we know it is facing a number of economic, demographic and technological forces that demand that we come up with some new answers: how to manage our precious health resources with the finances available to us, how to provide the care and support programs that our growing elderly population needs and how to measure and evaluate the technological advances so that they serve us and improve the health of our people. These are the challenges that our government is facing and addressing.

I believe that in this province we have the responsibility to show leadership, to use the great variety of talents and abilities that are available to us and to help the way to a better health care future. As our Minister of Health has said, health care is not a partisan issue. It crosses all political lines and provincial boundaries.

As we build our health care future, we recognize that the nursing profession itself is clearly in a time of transition. The way in which this profession changes and evolves over the next few years is bound to have a major impact not only on the quality of Ontario health care, but also on the range of health services that we are able to offer.

One of the difficulties we are facing today is staff shortages in certain specialized areas of nursing, particularly in the Metropolitan Toronto area. The issue is a complex one because right now in Ontario we are graduating about 2,800 nurses each year. While the number of nursing positions in the community colleges has increased, the positions are filled up as quickly as positions become available.

It is clear then that the difficulty is not so much a question of attracting nurses to enter the profession as it is a question of encouraging nurses to remain in their careers. We know that women have greater career opportunities now than ever before. We know that the job of a nurse, while very rewarding, is also very demanding.

It would be naïve of me to suggest that any province or any political party has a quick fix for the nursing issue. Shortly after her appointment, our Minister of Health asked the Advisory

Committee on Nursing Manpower, a committee made up of nurses and ministry representatives, to undertake an inquiry into nursing issues and to bring forward recommendations for consideration. The committee's report was released in September. The other reports by the Hospital Council of Metropolitan Toronto and the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario have subsequently been released.

While the recommendations in those reports are under review, our government is moving in a number of areas. As the minister said in the House earlier today, our government is now bringing forward regulatory changes to the Public Hospitals Act to create a much larger role for nurses in hospital management. These are needed but interim changes to adapt dated legislation to the needs of nursing and to the modern hospital environment where most nurses work.

More important, our government will move ahead with a full review of the Public Hospitals Act with the aim of having new legislation ready for introduction in this House in the fall of 1989. A consultation process will be announced shortly and nurses will be invited to participate in the updating of public hospitals legislation.

These legislative changes will give nurses a stronger voice in shaping their work environment, but the resolution of the problem of job dissatisfaction among nurses will not be found without the co-operation of the hospitals that employ the nurses, the associations that represent the nurses and other professionals who work with the nurses. We must find a way to bring all interests together to seek practical short-term and long-term solutions to the problem.

In the St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital, which is in my riding of Elgin, they have had a medical-nursing liaison committee for almost two years, helping in the internal management of the hospital. This shows the commitment to working together in that area to have a better health care system.

I am looking forward to seeing what changes will be made in the structure with the new regulation that has been brought forward today.

As we look for these solutions, the government will also move forward with its own health care agenda, including the expansion of community-based facilities. Our government has made a commitment to double the number of people receiving health care in community health centres and health service organizations. We are also looking to a major expansion of services provided through public health units and we are

funding a new positive shift towards a greater emphasis on community-based health promotion and disease prevention programs. All of these developments mean there will be more flexibility, options and choices for nurses in the types of settings where they will be able to work and carry out their professional responsibilities.

Nursing has an essential role to play as we move forward towards a new vision of health care for this province; indeed, a special challenge for nurses to make the voice of nursing be not just heard but an effective agent of change in bringing about our health care future.

I would like to commend the Minister of Health for her announcement today, an announcement that will promote new leadership roles for nurses in hospital management. I would like to commend her for her decision to proceed with a thorough review and examination of the Public Hospitals Act. I would like to commend her for leadership in working to bring a positive and creative change in the nursing issues in Ontario.

The Acting Speaker: Do we have other participants in the debate? The member for Simcoe East.

Mr. McLean: I am extremely pleased to have an opportunity to say a few words on this motion, because I sincerely believe this government has led us down the path and into a health care crisis in Ontario. This crisis involves a growing shortage of nursing personnel; this crisis involves a growing shortage of hospital beds; this crisis involves a delay in hospital capital construction; this crisis involves a growing lack of home care for the sick and the elderly; this crisis involves increasing surgical delays, and this crisis involves a health care system that is growing sicker by the minute under the direction of this government.

We recently heard the Minister of Health acknowledge that there is a serious problem. She knows the shortage of qualified nurses exists, but she fails to respond to this extremely serious problem. What does she decide to do? She decides to have another inquiry, another study. Studies and inquiries can only go so far. I honestly believe this is just one more example of the government's stalling tactics. It is one more example of the government abdicating its responsibility.

The Minister of Health recently announced the terms of reference for an independent inquiry into the scheduling of cardiac surgery at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto. This inquiry is supposed to look into the hospital's policy and

practice with regard to the method of determining which cases should take priority over others, the monitoring of patients on waiting lists for heart bypass surgery, the cancellation or postponement of scheduled bypass surgery, the scheduling of patients for bypass surgery and admissions into the cardiovascular unit.

I think the following is an extremely important section that is being reviewed, because it indicates to me that the minister is more than aware of the shortages of nurses: the operation and administration of the intensive care unit resources and the cardiac care unit resources, including nursing and admission policies and procedures.

We recently heard that some of the 40 children requiring heart surgery at the Hospital for Sick Children here in Toronto were sent home to wait up to eight months for the surgery they require. The shortage of intensive care nurses has forced this hospital to cancel and rebook heart operations for children. Delays have left the children, ranging in age from one year to 15 years, waiting anywhere from six weeks to eight months.

1550

The shortage of qualified nurses has hit me close to home in my own riding of Simcoe East. It seems that almost daily I receive at least one telephone call or letter from a constituent or relative of someone who has faced heart surgery delays time after time after time. What am I to tell these people I will be telling the members about in a few minutes?

In May of last year the Chairman of Management Board spoke against a motion by my party by saying there was no need for an emergency debate because the Ministry of Health was: "making progress on the issue of nursing shortages. It may well be an emergency to the opposition, but this government has the matter well in hand." If this is an example of the government having something well in hand, then I shudder to think what the situation would be like if the government let something get out of control, and believe me, this is a situation that is clearly out of control.

Let me talk about some of the people in my area who have been waiting for surgery. Lloyd Crawford of Oro Station has had a series of heart bypass surgery delays stretching over a period of more than six months. That has meant he could not return to work to his job as a truck driver to support his family.

Walter Silver of Orillia has faced numerous delays in his surgery for intestinal cancer. Mr. Silver's condition is worsening with each passing

day he waits for surgery and he finds the strain of waiting and worrying about his surgery to be agonizing.

Clifford Mears of the Orillia area has had the same long wait. He has been waiting for many months and his wait has led to a heart attack and the deterioration of the quality of Mr. Mears's life.

Phemie Beacock of Elmvale in the same situation was told last year to remain at home and wait for a call from a surgeon about when she could expect to have her operation. She has yet to be called.

I have one as late as yesterday. John Farrel, 59, of Brechin, Ontario has been waiting for more than eight months for triple heart bypass surgery. It has been cancelled and rescheduled numerous times. Mr. Farrel was told to be at St. Michael's Hospital here in Toronto on Tuesday, which was yesterday, for his surgery. When he got here, he was not on the admitting list. They eventually admitted him late yesterday. After settling in, he was told he would have to leave because they needed his bed. This was yesterday. He went back today and his doctor admitted him, but it is still not known when he will be operated on and no date has been set for Mr. Farrel's operation. I find this very unfair to him.

I want to relay clearly that the nurses have had enough. They are voting with their feet and they are beginning to leave their profession. It is estimated that at least 6,000 of Ontario's 80,000 practising nurses will quit the profession within 10 years of entering it. This will occur largely because of working conditions and pay.

I would like to turn my attention to the minister's lack of concern and action over the redevelopment of Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital. In her rather short letter dated January 16 in response to my correspondence on this matter, she said, "The ministry is actively working with the hospital to review all options available to bring this project to fruition."

I must say I was somewhat dismayed with this response to a matter of interest shared by me, the hospital board of directors, the people of the Orillia area and, of course, by the many people who depend on this facility for treatment.

Her officials told the board in December 1987 that she would have a final decision on this proposal by the end of March 1988 at the very latest. We are quickly approaching March 1989 and the minister has still not come forward with the decision on the board's proposal for a second campus in Orillia. The health care system in Ontario needs action from the minister, not more

rhetoric. The board of directors must know if redevelopment of Soldiers' Memorial Hospital is acceptable so they can step up their fund-raising. They have raised almost \$5 million to date.

The minister must pay attention and improve working conditions for nurses, and the minister must ensure that there are more nursing home beds available so we can free up the badly needed beds in our hospitals throughout Ontario.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to take part in this debate, and I will save the rest of the time for some other speakers.

Mr. Kozyra: I believe that every concerned citizen in this province is acutely aware that the nursing profession is today in a time of transition. Serious examination is now being given to the changing roles and responsibilities of nurses.

I believe we can view this as a healthy and positive development. Very little in health care is cast in stone. Technology, changing diagnostic procedures and patterns of care, public expectations, the ageing of our population and economics all require us to continually assess and evaluate the traditional patterns within health care.

What is especially challenging to traditional patterns and practices is our common desire to provide the best-quality health care that we can. I think we agree that all our efforts must be oriented to meeting the health needs of the people of this province.

We must, therefore, encourage a greater emphasis on providing health care services in the community; a greater emphasis on maintaining the independence of senior citizens for as long as possible; a greater emphasis on implementing alternatives in the provision and financing of health care services; and a greater emphasis on promoting health and preventing disease.

It goes without saying that nursing will be affected by the changes now taking place. Let's consider some of the issues the nursing profession is responding to. Issue one: Nursing has been greatly affected by the changing role of women in the workplace. Nurses are beginning to speak more forcefully and effectively on behalf of their interests and their patients. At the same time, women have many more career options and choices than even just a generation ago. This, in turn, has led to problems in retaining some nurses, and resulting in sporadic shortages not only here in Ontario but throughout all Canadian provinces, and the United States.

Issue two: Nursing today is more demanding and stressful than ever. With the technological advances in health care and with our ageing

population, the role of nurses is certain to become even more important.

Issue three: Tremendous advances in technology have altered the traditional nurse-doctor relationship and the role of the nurse within the hospital. Nurses now oversee complex technology, dispense information, and play a large part in preventive health care.

In response to the current nurse staffing situation in Ontario, it is encouraging that the four nursing manpower reports received by the ministry have similar and complementary recommendations.

At the same time, it must be understood that a great number of the actions proposed in these reports fall under the jurisdiction of employers, unions and professional associations and address the broad issue of the workplace environment.

Our minister has made a commitment to take an active role in facilitating the interactions between all concerned groups which will result in measures to improve the quality of worklife for nurses.

In the area of legislation, the minister has announced today interim changes to the Public Hospitals Act to give nurses more involvement in hospital decision-making by appointing staff nurses to hospital management committees.

The minister has also announced that the Public Hospitals Act will be opened up for a thorough examination and review later this year. During this process, there will be extensive consultations with nurses regarding their activities and responsibilities in hospital operations and management.

We know that shortages of nurses in the province are particularly a problem in certain specialized areas such as critical care, long-term care, and psychiatric nursing. The Ministry of Health's Advisory Committee on Nursing Manpower is reviewing the issues affecting supply and requirements in these areas and has completed a review of critical care nursing manpower.

In March 1987, the Ministry of Health advised the Ministry of Colleges and Universities that enrolment in registered nurse educational programs should be expanded. As a result, the number of first-year nursing positions in colleges increased by almost nine per cent from 1986-87 to 1988-89, and more additions are anticipated.

The College of Nurses of Ontario is responsible for developing the standards of nursing practices which are the basis for the development of nursing educational curricula. The college is currently revising the standards.

While our government does not hold the view that a degree should be the minimum educational requirement for all nurses, we do, however, believe that nurses should have the educational opportunities to upgrade their skills.

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We also continue to support the role of registered nursing assistants, recognizing the valuable contribution they make to bedside nursing care. When you add up all of this, it is clear that we will be witnessing over the next few years an intensive discussion of all aspects of nursing. It is appropriate that the profession is taking a leading role in generating this discussion and working to address its own concerns.

We must hope that the current discussion opens up real possibilities and real solutions to some of the issues facing nursing today. I know that in this province, our government and the profession are working together in the search for these answers.

Health professionals are people of strong commitment, people who are proud of the contribution that their particular profession, their particular specialty and their particular skill is making to the advancement of the health sciences and our quality of health care.

But whatever our role, I believe we must remember that health care is a very human activity and that whatever our responsibilities, we all share some vitally important common objectives: to maintain health, to restore health and to prevent disease and disability.

It is obvious that the nursing profession will be vitally involved in improving the quality of health and the quality of life here in Ontario and wherever health professionals are called to perform their important responsibilities.

Let me close my comments this afternoon with a quote from the September 1987 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*: "Nurses are an essential resource for hospitals and the nation's health. Addressing their needs and aspirations realistically and examining their work conditions meaningfully are prerequisites for high-quality patient care now and in the future."

Mr. Hampton: I am pleased that we are having this debate. I am in part pleased because it gives me a chance I would not otherwise have to put on the record some of the frustrations that people from a part of the province far away from Toronto have experienced with Toronto medicine.

The Minister of Health made the statement a short while ago—it was recorded in the press—that

the nursing shortage in Ontario was really only a problem in Metropolitan Toronto, that the problem existed here and only here and the rest of the province ought not to get too concerned about it.

I think that illustrated, front and centre, the lack of understanding the Minister of Health has of how Ontario's health system works, because in the new order of things, in the new order of health care in Ontario, if you are from Fort Frances, Kenora, Red Lake, Geraldton, Marathon or Hearst and you have a serious medical problem, quite often you will be referred to Toronto to seek specialized care or for the very delicate kind of surgery that may be involved.

If there is a nursing shortage in Toronto, a nursing shortage that closes beds or a nursing shortage which results in specialized surgery being delayed, cancelled or postponed, not just the people of Metropolitan Toronto suffer from that but people from all around the province. That has happened, that I know of, in at least half a dozen cases in my own constituency, the constituency which is probably the furthest away from Toronto of any in this province.

Some of these cases are, to say the least, frustrating. Some of them are downright sad and pathetic, because in a couple of cases people have died waiting for the surgery that kept being postponed here in Toronto because of a shortage of beds.

I just want to refer to a couple of those cases, because it illustrates what is going on. A gentleman named Hugh Masson—he is from a rural farming area in my constituency—had a heart attack. He survived the heart attack. However, the diagnosis was that he had to have bypass surgery and he was referred to a specialist here in Toronto to have that surgery performed. He flew down, had an examination and was told, "Well, it'll be a few months."

A few months came and went and he was told: "Sorry, we cannot do the surgery now. We have difficulties with bed shortages. We have difficulties with the numbers of nurses to staff intensive care wards, to staff the surgical wards. We cannot do the operation now. It'll have to be put off."

It was put off another three months. All the while, his health is not getting better; in fact, it is deteriorating. That three months comes and goes and he is told: "Well, we cannot do it now either. The backlog is increasing, not decreasing. Wait again, another three months."

I am not sure of the exact time, but I think it was 11 months later that Mr. Masson finally took

a bus into Winnipeg and went to Calgary to have his surgery performed. That is what he had to do to have this very necessary kind of surgery performed because, as I say, his health was deteriorating with the wait.

I have to say Mr. Masson was very appreciative of what was eventually done for him, but what enraged him was when he got to Calgary and was able to speak to the heart surgeon, he was told that if he had had the operation early on, his recovery and the overall capacity of his heart would have been much greater than they likely ever will be now. Through the delay his vital capacity, in terms of his heart, became worse and worse and it may be something from which he will not recover or only partially recover. That has left him, it is fair to say, somewhat angry at this whole situation.

Mr. Masson was a lucky one. He was the lucky one in that something could be done for him. Another patient, Elizabeth Larson from Fort Frances, is referred to a hospital in Thunder Bay and sees a specialist in Thunder Bay. She is told: "Look, the only way something can be done for you is there are some people in Toronto at the Wellesley Hospital who treat this kind of disease, who have specialized knowledge the rest of us do not have. We want to send you to Toronto Wellesley now, but we can't. There is a nursing shortage. We can't send you there. A lot of the beds have been shut down in that hospital. We just can't get you there."

The sad part about the particular disease she has is that it is a progressive disease; the longer it is delayed, the greater part of the body it affects. She had to wait through the agony for a month in the hospital in Thunder Bay, being told week in, week out: "Well, we'll try to get you there. We think we can get you there this week. We think we can get you there next week."

When I spoke to members of the family, their greatest concern was not that the disease was going to progress that rapidly, but that Mrs. Larson was going to give up the fight and finally say to herself: "Nothing is happening here. I am simply being put off. I am simply being pushed off to the side in this system."

Finally, I have one other case, Mrs. Galusha, again from the rural area. Mrs. Galusha is the saddest case of all, again someone who needed heart surgery. Mrs. Galusha was put on a waiting list and she finally did give up, so just before Christmas she passed away. I do not know the exact time she was on the waiting list—I think it was something like six months—but I remember when I last talked to her I said, "Mrs. Galusha,

you must write a letter to the Minister of Health and inform her very directly of what is happening to you."

1610

Again, what was the problem with Mrs. Galusha? Why was she being postponed? She was told: "We have a nursing shortage in Toronto. We simply don't have the nursing staff on hand to be able to deal with your situation, so you will have to wait."

I think the Minister of Health should inform herself that when we have a nursing shortage in Toronto, the whole province is affected and some people die because of it. To say that is merely a problem for Toronto is utter and total nonsense.

It so happens that we know there is not a nursing shortage just in Toronto, because nurses, and I am glad they do this, have taken concerted action in dealing with this problem. They have held meetings all across the province. Just a few weeks ago, nurses in northwestern Ontario got together to list very carefully and very directly what the nursing shortage is in so many of the small communities, where if you do not have a sufficient number of nurses, you are really in a fix, because for sure you do not have a lot of doctors and a lot of other complementary health care.

Let me give an example of some of the communities across the northwestern part of the province that are experiencing a problem: Rainy River, Kenora, Lake Nipigon, Fort William, Port Arthur. McKellar General Hospital in Fort William is a hospital to which patients from all across the northwest are referred. People cannot be referred there because of a shortage of nurses at McKellar. People in small towns all across the northwestern part of the province are waiting for McKellar to solve its nursing shortage problem so they can be referred there.

The nursing shortage is a serious one indeed and this minister had better do something about it.

Mr. Cousens: We are dealing today in the Legislature with one of the most important subjects and, I will be supporting the New Democratic Party's nonconfidence motion that questions the government's capability to do the job it should be doing for the health care system.

I do not think there is any doubt that there is no issue more important to all of us than our health. If you do not have your health, then what else do you have? Our government is going to have to do everything possible to maintain a quality health care system so that all people in our province have the sense of confidence that when they are

sick or have a health problem, they are going to draw upon quality care and quality resources.

That has been a tradition in our province, and it is becoming very evident now that there is something seriously wrong. This motion we are debating today, unfortunately, is not going to win. If it did win, I think we could begin to see some change.

First of all, I would like to compliment the excellent work that is being done by our critic the member for Parry Sound (Mr. Eves). The questions he has been asking in the House touch upon many broad areas that pertain to the health problems across this province. He consistently asks the best questions and we consistently hear the Minister of Health fail to answer those questions.

I have many examples here. Members just have to look at Hansard. All the people who are watching this House have to do is to make sure to ask, when they are listening to the answers, "Does the minister respond to the question that has been asked?" I have to say that though our friend the Minister of Health is a very capable politician with tremendous experience and background—

[Applause]

Mr. Faubert: Let Hansard note the applause.

Mr. Cousens: I do not think there is any doubt, but I have to say there is genuine concern on the part of all of us that the job she is doing as Minister of Health brings into question her own capability of solving the problems of the ministry.

I am not here to throw stones at individuals. I am here to do what I can to build up and strengthen the health care system in our province. The fact of the matter is we are not seeing the kind of progress and support that is much needed.

What I am seeing instead are the kinds of problems that are happening with constituents of mine who have been sick and have gone to the hospital. A very good friend of mine went for heart surgery and it was delayed and delayed. While he was waiting for surgery he had a heart attack. It has weakened his heart. He has since had the surgery, but those long delays for help have certainly changed his life. That is another part of the whole equation that says the system is weakening. It is not as good as it was.

I have to say we are dealing with a government that is losing the confidence of the people who are the patients. The confidence in this government of my good friend from Unionville who had that heart attack is less than it was before.

I would like to say that the people who have supported Vaughan Glen Hospital have fought vigorously to maintain the Villa Private Hospital. There are now no more admissions going into the Villa hospital. It is on Bathurst Street in the riding of York Centre. It used to be in my riding. It happens to be a very quality-oriented hospital serving mentally handicapped young adults. It is a fantastic facility.

When the government took over the facility, it said it would look after it. What it is going to do is in fact sell the property, make a profit and close it down and those people who have been served by it will cease to be served. All those people who are associated with Vaughan Glen Hospital join me in saying we are losing confidence in this minister and the Ministry of Health.

Those patients in Ontario who have to travel to the United States, to Detroit or Boston, for surgery and health care delivery that traditionally, up until recently, has been delivered in Ontario, every one of those people who has had to go to the United States for surgery or care, who is doing it on his own money, joins the throng of people who say, "We are losing confidence in the province to deliver a quality health care system."

The people in York Central Hospital went to work and earned money to buy a computerized axial tomography scanner. They have bought it through the foundation. They are ready to install it. The province is not prepared to do the necessary funding to allow that CAT scanner to be installed to serve the people in the York Central area.

They approved it for the York County Hospital in Newmarket. Why would they not approve it at the same time for the York Central Hospital in Richmond Hill? Anyone who has to be transported many miles by ambulance to other hospitals for that care joins the throng of people who say, "We are losing confidence in Ontario for not providing the services and support where we need it in our own communities." It is justified, it is needed and it is paid for by the community, and yet the province, the Ministry of Health, will not give financial approval to the people at York Central Hospital to install it.

Last week, my friends the member for York North (Mr. Beer) and the member for Durham-York (Mr. Ballinger) went to the York region council meeting and they were just drawn up on the rocks. They were criticized harshly for the failure of this government to do what it should be doing in support of that special need.

Another group that is joining the throng opposed to what this government is doing in its

health care delivery system is seniors, those in seniors' homes who are receiving extended care or chronic care, over the lack of funding, the lack of a consistent plan, the lack of the new legislation that has been promised by this government.

This government is failing its seniors. When the seniors start to look at the failure of this government to deliver a quality health care system that meets their needs, it is going to lose their votes. It got a lot of seniors' votes in the last election, but it is going to get less and less because seniors are starting to realize that this government is not committed to putting the money where it should be, in extended care.

This government is a government of confrontation. Look at the confrontation we have had in the last couple of years. The negotiations go on with the optometrists. The starting point in the negotiations was less than what they are being paid now.

The doctors have paraded on Queen's Park. The nurses have just recently paraded on Queen's Park. The physiotherapists are complaining about the fee structure they receive. The podiatrists have problems. I had a visitor in my riding office this week about the failure of this government to understand the need for podiatry.

We are seeing the pharmacists. The pharmacists are just being pushed down, and they are an integral part of a strong health delivery system. Yet the Drug Benefit Formulary is not up to date. The pharmacists join that group of people who are part of the throng that is upset about the failure of this government to deliver quality health care.

It was not that long since we had a strike by ambulance workers in Mississauga. Some members shake their heads as if it is not important. It is important, because the ambulance drivers and those people who are there to help people get to the hospital and receive their attention were on strike for the longest time.

I join in this vote of nonconfidence as one who is becoming angry at the failure of this government to respond to the needs of the people of Ontario. It is time it began to wake up to the facts, time that it understood what is being said by my friend the member for Parry Sound. Our party is trying vigorously to wake up the Liberals here in Ontario to do what they should be doing. They were elected to govern; they were elected to serve. What they are doing instead is allowing a fragile system, the deliverer of health care, to crumble and be destroyed.

I cannot stand to see it happen. I am upset by what is happening. The fact is that we are here today debating it and cannot do much more except talk about it. The government is in a position to do something about it; it is in a position to respond to the needs of the people now. Why not do it? Why not get on with doing it? Stop the wooden, empty answers and make it happen.

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Mr. McClelland: I am particularly delighted to follow my friend the member for Markham because I think some of the comments I have may address some of what I believe is clearly misinformation, a wrong impression he has left with the people of Ontario today.

The issues surrounding nursing vacancies in Ontario in certain speciality areas, and particularly in certain regions of this province, are a major concern to this government. As we have seen even today, this government and the Minister of Health are prepared to take action as government authority permits. Not only are they prepared to take action, but they are doing so.

As we examine this issue, there are a number of important factors that must be taken into account. This issue needs to be put into its proper perspective.

In 1987, the most recent year for which exact figures are available, there were—we have precise numbers—97,373 registered nurses residing in Ontario, of whom 86 per cent were employed in nursing. It should also be noted that in the five-year period from 1982 to 1987, the number of RNs in Ontario increased by 7.2 per cent, while the population of the province increased by 6.7 per cent.

Much of the current discussion about nursing manpower issues is over loss from the profession and labour force. The Meltz report, commissioned by the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario, documents that nurses have a high labour activity rate in comparison to other professions. As well, they have a high rate of participation in their profession. This is supported by Canada-Wide Stats for 1987, which showed that 89 per cent of all registered nurses reported practising their profession compared to 76 per cent in 1976.

Here in Ontario, college and university nursing programs enrol about 4,300 first-year students annually and graduate approximately 3,000 registered nurses. The Ministry of Health has advised the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, and in response to that advice, enrolment in 1988-89 college nursing programs

was increased over 1986-87 levels by nine per cent. That was done to meet the projected increased demand arising from planned hospital bed expansion.

Requirements for RNs are measured by budgeted positions, with about 70 per cent of those budgeted positions being hospital staff positions. Since September 1985, over 4,000 new RN positions have been added to hospitals alone. In March 1988, the hospital vacancy rate for RNs was 3.2 per cent. The vacancy rate in Toronto, however, was 6.8 per cent.

Critical care nursing accounted provincially for 25 per cent of the vacant positions, and long-term care is also a very high vacancy area.

Province-wide, 38 per cent of the identified vacancies were temporarily staffed; that is to say, they were staffed by nurses from hospital registries and commercial employment agencies. It is this factor that led the Health ministry's Advisory Committee on Nursing Manpower to identify the nursing shortage problem as a difficulty in filling permanent positions, rather than a serious shortage of nurses per se.

Furthermore, several Toronto hospitals have taken steps to decrease their agency use, which may at least temporarily be increasing the staffing difficulties we are currently experiencing.

Four recent reports—I want to list those reports—are from the minister's Advisory Committee on Nursing Manpower, the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario, the Ontario Nurses' Association, and a fourth report was commissioned by the Hospital Council of Metropolitan Toronto. They addressed the nursing personnel situation from different perspectives and a different direction, but it is important to note their conclusions and recommendations are very similar.

The report for the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario documents that enrolment in nursing educational programs has not kept pace with the expansion of health systems. Trends to substitute RNs for registered nursing assistants and thereby increase the workload of RNs, to compensate for reduced numbers of other hospital staff, have also contributed to the problem.

The Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario and the Hospital Council of Metropolitan Toronto reports do not recommend increased enrolments. They take the position, as does—worthy of note—the Ontario Nurses' Association, that there would be a sufficient number of nurses if they were retained in the profession and in the labour market. This position reinforces the

interest of the profession in improved working conditions, improved salaries and other issues related to the job.

There is agreement in all reports that the issues surrounding shortage are complex. Nobody is denying that. There has been a move away from full-time, permanent employment to part-time and agency employment. That must be dealt with. Contributing factors to nursing vacancies, as identified by the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario in its report, also include problems with limited wage differentials between new and experienced nurses, lack of flexibility in scheduling work times, lack of incentive pay for specialty nurses, limited assistance with and recognition for continuing education, insufficient participation in decision-making, assignment of inappropriate tasks such as clerical and house duties, and other factors.

The majority of recommendations in the report are addressed to employers, unions and the nursing profession. The recommendations regarding compensation include premium pay scales in difficult-to-staff units, increased shift-differential pay and pay bonuses when nurses acquire additional skills.

Nurses' compensation in most hospitals is negotiated by the Ontario Nurses' Association and the Ontario Hospital Association. The ONA has taken the position that it is not appropriate for third parties to suggest how the union should conduct negotiations and amend the collective agreement.

Recommendations addressed to employers include, among others, establishing nursing policy and retention committees, the review of scheduling, examination and reassignment of non-nursing tasks, which requires the profession to clearly define its role, and also recognition and support for continuing education.

The quality of worklife issues identified as being the prime cause for nurse staffing problems need to be addressed by employers, unions and the nursing profession. The minister has shown and will continue to facilitate the interaction needed among these groups to arrive at solutions. The willingness and demonstration of her capacity to do that has already been demonstrated and she will continue to fulfil that responsibility.

A number of other recommendations in the nursing manpower report are now under government review. For example, one recommendation states, and I want my friends and the people engaged in this debate to notice this very clearly, and I quote: "The government of Ontario should amend the Public Hospitals Act to transform the

existing medical advisory committees into professional advisory committees with nursing representation.

Today, the Minister of Health has announced that our government is taking action to amend the regulations to increase the role of hospital nursing staff in hospital governance. The minister has also announced that a thorough review and analysis of the Public Hospitals Act will be undertaken this year.

It is very important to note that the view of this government is that nurses are vital, essential and a very important part of our health care system. We are committed to seeing that nurses continue to make their important contribution to the Ontario health care system. Indeed, we are committed to seeing that their contribution will be expanded and enhanced.

For that reason, I think the motion is totally inappropriate. This government has demonstrated its leadership and ability to deal with this issue. I am pleased to rise and speak against the motion as presented.

Mrs. Marland: In rising today to speak to this nonconfidence motion, which I know was read into the record a few speakers earlier, I want to say that this subject of the supply, the qualifications, the employment opportunities and the role and responsibility of registered nurses in this province is only one aspect of this entire subject of what is a major problem with our health care system in Ontario today.

It is rather a pun on words, perhaps, to use the word "symptom," since we are talking about health care, but there certainly is no question that the nursing staff situation in Ontario is but one more symptom and an illustration that continues to fill a picture of a grim situation in Ontario today.

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Every day for the past six or seven weeks we have had brought to the floor of this House another example of a very real sickness in the administration of health care for Ontarians by this Liberal government. As we hear these examples every day, we know each is one more brush fire. We hear the responses to the solutions for those brush fires, but those of us who are keenly sensitive to the ramifications of where we are today with health care in Ontario know it is a very serious and grave situation indeed.

When we have over 50 per cent of the something like 220 hospitals in Ontario now needing to budget with deficits, I think that has to tell you one thing; the one thing that tells you is not that those hospital boards are irresponsible,

not that those hospital boards intentionally want to come in with expenditures exceeding their income, but it is confirmation of the fact that their income, which is 90 per cent provincial funding, does not meet the needs of those hospitals which in turn are trying to meet the needs of their patients.

If there is one thing that frightens me most of all about the Liberal government's attitude to health care today, it is the fact that it seems to think it is okay to alienate everyone associated with being a health care provider. In 1986, they thought it was fine to attack the doctors, the physicians of this province. At that time, the Liberal government could see the growing increase in the health care budget, so it decided to attack one element of health care costs. They never at any time said that physicians' billings in this province were only 18 per cent of the total health care budget, but they decided that they would attack that 18 per cent cost factor. They did not decide to investigate and review where other savings could be made in the total operation and provision of health care in Ontario.

Mr. Reycraft: The Canada Health Act was a factor.

Mrs. Marland: They have gone on now to insult and alienate further health care providers. It is particularly interesting when I hear the member for Middlesex (Mr. Reycraft) say that it was the Canada Health Act that drove them to passing Bill 94 in December 1986. What was interesting with that whole debate was that the amount of money that urged this Liberal government at that time to alienate the physicians as one particular group was a matter of \$50 million this province was not receiving as a transfer payment from the federal government.

What is really interesting is that in the first year following the passage of Bill 94, billings under the Ontario health insurance plan increased \$113 million. For the first time, the physicians in this province billed for things they were always entitled to bill for but did not bother billing for. I give as examples the writing of prescriptions, telephone calls, the completion of forms, camp certifications—all that bookkeeping stuff for which physicians did not bother collecting fees. Although it took their professional time to do it, they did not bother billing for it. Now they are billing for it, and in the first year we had an increase of \$113 million, which certainly makes the \$50-million debate very paltry. In fact, we added \$63 million to the cost of the provision of those services through the actions of this Liberal government.

We look at the recent demonstration by the Liberal government to even further groups of health care providers in Ontario, such as the optometrists, who have received a 4.3 per cent decrease in their professional fees. We look at the lack of consideration and settlement that exists with the physiotherapists in this province. We certainly have to look at the alienation of the pharmacists who fill prescriptions which, hopefully, are the cure for the medical problems of the patients of this province. We can go on and on.

Certainly this motion, which deals with the problems of the qualified registered nurses in Ontario, addresses yet another group that has been alienated. The cost of this alienation will perhaps never be fully realized in real terms in the service of any member in this Legislature, but it certainly is going to be recognized by the people who come to follow us: our children and our grandchildren. We are going to have people who will not be interested in going into the professions that render health care in Ontario because they will no longer be respected professions.

The very fact that this Legislature and 85,000 bureaucrats in Ontario received a 4.6 per cent increase in their salaries while the doctors received a 1.7 per cent increase in theirs, is very indicative, I think—

Mr. Smith: It is going to cost Ontario nine per cent.

Mr. Faubert: Dollars went up.

Mr. Smith: Tell it all.

Mr. Reyecraft: Doctors don't earn salaries.

Mrs. Marland: I now have all the catcalls and interjections from government members because this Liberal government cannot bear to hear some true facts being given. Immediately, they raise their objections in this debate. The only disappointment I have as I see the clock winding down to the last six or seven seconds of my limit of an eight-minute presentation is that it is very difficult to get the truth out to the people of Ontario.

Mrs. Sullivan: It will not come as a surprise to the House that I will not be supporting the motion of nonconfidence put forward by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. B. Rae).

I think we all realize that the issues related to critical care, and particularly staffing issues, cannot be addressed without the co-operation and active involvement of hospitals. Members of this House will know that representatives of the Ministry of Health have met with the chief executive officers of major downtown Toronto critical care and trauma hospitals to discuss

concrete actions that could be taken to improve access to care as well as the nursing staffing situation. I know the information that is a result of these meetings will be useful to members.

The hospitals have already begun to address problems in attracting and retaining nurses, particularly in critical care units. Mount Sinai Hospital, for example, has no nursing shortage now in its critical care or operating units. It spent \$250,000 on a Canada-wide recruitment drive, improved benefits such as free parking for evening and weekend workers and established a working group of hospital administration and nurses to identify and address the problems of attracting and retaining staff.

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Hospital chief executive officers are taking immediate action to develop a co-ordinated communication-and-care system that will help to ensure that cardiac patients receive surgery as soon as possible at one of the participating hospitals. This will involve the sharing of resources, including operating time and staff.

The hospitals will keep each other informed about the availability of surgical time and staff at their respective institutions so surgery can be performed on patients from co-operating hospitals. This co-operative system will complement the cardiac registry system that has just been introduced at the Toronto Hospital. An expert panel of cardiologists and cardiovascular surgeons working with the program has developed a standard set of factors that will help physicians assess the urgency of a patient's condition. The registry will give physicians information on the availability of surgery at the major hospitals.

I am sure every member of this House will applaud this kind of action along with the minister because it makes the best possible use of health care resources and does it in a co-ordinated and co-operative way.

Sunnybrook Medical Centre has also recently announced that it will start construction immediately on its planned heart unit. The Ministry of Health expects that the hospital will start treating patients in June 1989.

Currently, there are 68 nurses in or about to enter critical care, intensive care unit training programs in downtown hospitals. They will be ready to join their units by the end of March 1989.

The minister, as members will know, has met regularly both formally and informally with nursing groups over the past year, including the Ontario Nurses' Association, the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario, the Association

of Metro Nursing Executives, the College of Nurses of Ontario, the minister's Advisory Committee on Nursing Manpower, nursing educators, the nursing student council and Metro staff nurses. Dialogue has been ongoing, frequent and dynamic.

The member for Brampton North (Mr. McClelland) earlier mentioned that in Ontario we have approximately 95,000 nurses and that we are graduating about 2,800 nurses annually.

The most recent statistics on nursing vacancies in hospitals show that the full-time nursing vacancy rate for Ontario hospitals was 3.2 per cent or 1,377 positions; 918 of those positions were vacant in Metro hospitals. About 38 per cent of these full-time positions have now been temporarily staffed. The next set of statistics will be available next month.

In response to the current nursing staffing situation, reports from four groups have been reviewed by the ministry: the ministry's Advisory Committee on Nursing Manpower, the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario, the Hospital Council of Metropolitan Toronto and the ONA.

Although each of these reports addresses the problem from a different perspective, their recommendations are similar and complementary. They all indicate that innovative approaches and flexibility can have a positive job impact.

The Health minister's announcement in the House today relating to amendments to Ontario regulation 518/88 provides a clear signal that our government is proceeding in the spirit of flexibility and innovation. The regulatory change will place staff nurses on hospital committees and ensure that staff nurses have a voice in the administrative, financial, operational and planning decisions in their hospitals.

We know the minister has also announced that the government intends to open the Ontario Public Hospitals Act. One of the primary considerations in taking this action is to promote further nursing involvement in hospital decision-making.

I think every member of the House will agree that the nursing profession today is in an important period of transition, a period that is certain to see the roles and responsibilities of nurses change and evolve in the coming years.

I thought I would like to refer to part of the report from the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario, *A Prescription for Reforming Human Resource Planning in Health Care*, and read how the nurses from the RNAO themselves see the nature of that transition and change. They say:

"In the future nurses will be assuming new roles, with many challenging responsibilities. To illustrate, in response to the increased number of elderly in our communities there will be a need for nurses to be involved in expanded home care nursing services and long-term care. There will be an increased need for health education by nurses within the community to deal with health problems related to lifestyle diseases, such as alcohol and drug abuse. Expanded rehabilitation nursing services will be required due to an increase in chronic disease and stress-related health problems will necessitate expanded community health teaching and counselling services.

"In providing these services, nurses will function in the role of care giver, teacher, counsellor and patient advocate. Nurses will also co-ordinate the health care provided by many health care professionals. Nurses will frequently be the primary care givers, not the physicians, in the provision of these health care services.

"Although there will be a growing emphasis on the need for nursing services in the community, there will be a continued need for nursing care in institutional settings where increasingly patients will be more acutely ill during their stay. That acuity of illness and sophisticated technology that will be required will also impact on the scope of practice of nurses in these settings, calling for even more complex decision-making on their part."

I thought that was a very strong reminder of the kind of transition that the nursing industry, that the nurses themselves are going through and will see in the future. Our government is clearly showing that we are prepared to work co-operatively with nurses and their representatives as nurses move towards a new, confident and professional future.

Mr. Reycraft: Mr. Speaker, under the agreement between the three party whips, the Minister of Health is expected to make her windup speech now and I see her just arriving in the chamber. I wanted to advise you she was on her way.

The Acting Speaker: We will now proceed to the windup speeches with, as I understand it, the government party first, followed by the third party and then the opposition party.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I am pleased to participate in today's debate. I believe this is an important opportunity for us to discuss nursing issues in general and in great detail. I find it frustrating to deal with issues such as this in question period, because the time constraints do not allow us to have a full and frank discussion.

Members will have heard me say on numerous occasions that the nursing shortage issue is complex. While I realize that there are some in this House who believe that they have heard that response too often, it is none the less an accurate reflection of the situation, and those knowledgeable people with whom I discuss this issue all remind me of that.

I will begin today by saying that I want to take the time available to review the issue as identified by individual nurses and the reports recently completed, and we all know what those reports are.

From the days of Florence Nightingale, nursing was and has been traditionally viewed as women's work. Today nursing continues to be a female-dominated profession. For that reason it is important to look at the nursing situation first in the context of changes affecting women in the workforce.

When I was growing up, women believed that their career choices were limited to basically three areas: teaching, secretarial work and nursing. In fact, I seriously considered becoming a nurse but never actually took the training.

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The fact that we now have a record number of women in this Legislature says a lot about just how much things have changed for women. We all applaud the wider range of opportunities now open to women, particularly in these times of economic prosperity. However, we must also recognize the tremendous changes which have taken place and are taking place within those professions dominated by females.

The discussions around pay equity within this House were one initiative which caused many to reconsider how we value those jobs traditionally labelled as women's work and to view these jobs in the context of value to our society and contribution to our everyday life. Our level of knowledge about the role of women in the workforce has increased tremendously over the past few years. I believe we have all come to understand that value of work should not be determined by the gender of the worker.

The vast majority of nurses, as I said, are women, even with the increased enrolment in nursing courses by men. Nursing remains an attractive profession for students, as demonstrated by the number of applicants for nursing courses. But as all the reports have noted, the problem facing us today is not one of recruitment but one of retention.

The changes affecting the female workforce have had a very strong impact on the level of

retention among nurses for several reasons. For those who find that nursing does not live up to their expectations, the opportunities outside nursing can be very attractive. Nurses can find jobs where the hours are more regular, the pay higher and the opportunity for advancement greater. This is not to say that women or men should not become nurses. Quite the contrary.

Nursing provides an unparalleled opportunity to make a significant contribution to our society. Our health care system depends on nurses, in hospitals and in community-based facilities, for hands-on care. What I am saying is that the issues nurses are raising are familiar to most women who have felt their work is not recognized and not respected. Nurses are saying that there must be some basic changes in working conditions and the level of participation in the decision-making process in the work environment. I understand what these women are saying and I agree with them.

The report commissioned by the Ontario Nurses' Association notes, "Several areas of response would suggest that there is no quick fix or single solution to the nursing shortage." The report goes on to note: "Shift work, 35 per cent; lack of respect from society, 14 per cent; low pay, 13 per cent; heavy workload, 14 per cent; and relationships with doctors, 13 per cent, emerge as specific dislikes. The lack of recognition, financial or otherwise, to nurses with experience, lack of input in the system and no incentive to upgrade themselves emerges strongly, in agreement, to possible frustrations in nursing."

I would like to take a few minutes, if I can, to discuss some problems I have identified, and which have been identified, in more detail. First, the perception among nurses that they do not have a voice in decision-making. Nurses have told me that they are very much aware of the waste, the duplication, the unnecessary and ineffective practices in health care; practices which have been, as we all know, documented by a number of research studies. But they feel powerless to address the problems they identify.

I believe nurses need a forum where they can be listened to, to make their views known or suggest changes to improve the delivery of services. The regulations I announced today are a step towards empowering nurses to actively participate in the decisions made within hospitals. As I have stated before, I also remain committed to amending the Public Hospitals Act to further the role of nursing in hospital governance.

Nurses have also asked for greater participation on government task forces and committees. Since becoming minister, every advisory committee to the minister has included a nurse. For example, the Lowy drug inquiry, the Premier's Council on Health Strategy, the Conjoint Review Committee reviewing 23 hospital operations, the Advisory Committee on Multicultural Health and the Advisory Committee on Lithotripsy have all included nurses.

Before going any further, members should understand that the nursing profession itself is complex and not always unified. The Ontario Nurses' Association is the nursing union which represents approximately 50,000 nurses employed by hospitals and public health units. The Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario is a voluntary professional association of nurses. The College of Nurses of Ontario is the nursing equivalent of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario and is responsible for governing this profession.

I have met with representatives of all of these organizations as well as nursing educators, nursing executives, nursing students and individual critical care nurses. The Premier and I also recently met with both the RNAO and ONA.

While all of these organizations tend to identify many of the same issues, they do not always identify the same solutions. For example, the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario takes the position that baccalaureate nursing preparation be required credentials for entry level to practice by the year 2000. The Ontario Nurses' Association does not support the baccalaureate requirement.

I do not expect that all nurses will agree on every issue, no more than I expect that all members of any professional group will agree on any issue. The difficulty arises when I appoint nurses to speak to nurses or when I speak to the nurses: I am told that I am appointing or speaking to the wrong nurses.

Given the diversity of opinion among nurses, I do not believe that is a valid criticism. I appoint members to committee based on the skills, experience and perspective that they can contribute to the process. I will continue to seek advice from a wide range of sources and at the same time seek consensus wherever possible among the participants, acknowledging that consensus does not mean unanimity.

The work environment is another issue consistently identified as a concern of nurses. To quote from the report of the Hospital Council of Metropolitan Toronto:

"There is a strong relationship between nursing career satisfaction and the hospital environment, according to survey results. Because hospitals are primary employers of nurses, it would make sense that improving hospital work environments can be a major factor in the perception of a career as well as resulting in the very practical payoffs in workplace satisfaction.

"The task force is recommending that the boards of hospitals set as a priority the assessment of nursing satisfaction within their institutions."

The member for Sarnia (Mr. Brandt) has identified some of the areas where different administrative practices can improve the level of job satisfaction, such as scheduling and the appropriate use of staff support. Indeed, where hospitals have been more innovative in their management practices, we have seen the level of job satisfaction dramatically improve.

The RNAO has written: "The Meltz report identified one of the more innovative hospitals that has introduced self-scheduling. In this system, the nurses in each unit worked out their own schedules within a defined framework. We urge all Ontario's 222 hospitals to examine the option of self-scheduling and to introduce it within their institutions if there is a consensus within their own nursing staff that such a system would be an improvement over the status quo."

I encourage this approach.

Nurses also believe that too much of their time is spent on bookkeeping and housekeeping, taking away from the time they could spend on direct patient care. Computerization would have a positive impact, but nurses believe that registered nursing assistants and orderlies could be more effectively used in hospitals.

Both reports note these changes must be undertaken by individual hospitals. Issues such as scheduling and the use of support staff are management decisions that are made within the hospital and approved by the hospital boards. The Ministry of Health, as members know, does not run individual hospitals, and because hospitals are autonomous, the ministry does not set hospital management procedures.

I have also spoken with the Ontario Hospital Association and the Hospital Council of Metropolitan Toronto recently about the way of dealing with retention of nurses. I believe there is a growing recognition on the part of hospitals that administrative changes can have a beneficial impact in improving the work environment.

The examples of hospitals that have been successful in changing scheduling styles or in

dividing the workload have, in my view, great potential to bring about positive change.

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Nurses also identified the attitude of physicians as a problem. Dr. Jeffrey Seidman wrote recently: "The first and loudest complaint is the lack of recognition and respect. Nurses repeatedly claim that the public and physicians treat them like serfs and subordinates. We complain a lot and offer little thanks. We all need to stop thinking of our nurses as parlour maids at the Ritz or surrogate mothers. Our demands on them should be reasonable and our appreciation made more obvious."

In legislating greater participation for nurses in hospital decision-making we are facilitating change, both in the way hospitals operate and in the way nurses are perceived by their colleagues and by the public.

The final issue I would like to address is the collective agreement between the Ontario Hospital Association and the Ontario Nurses' Association. As members will know, the present agreement covers a three-year term and is the first time an agreement has been reached without the intervention of an arbitrator. The ONA negotiators have stated that they believe it is a better agreement than they would have made with arbitrators. The contract expands the pay grid and increases the shift differential over the length of the agreement, as well as providing for pay increases for nurses.

Yet again today the Leader of the Opposition has suggested that the ministry should force the renegotiation of the contract before the term is even halfway through. To be clear, the ministry is not a party to the agreement, nor does it participate in the negotiations between employers, the hospitals, and the employees, the nurses and the nurses' union.

I believe very strongly in the collective bargaining process. This is a contract that was agreed to by both parties without arbitration and I am very surprised that the Leader of the Opposition, the leader of the New Democratic Party of this province, would suggest that the collective bargaining process should be done away with.

My colleague the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara) and I are meeting with the ONA and the OHA to facilitate ongoing discussions. I was impressed by the commitment of both groups to look for solutions and further meetings are planned. These ongoing discussions are extremely important because of the breadth of issues covered by the collective agreement process. For

example, any form of specialty pay would have to be negotiated, whether it is based on level of training, specialty area or the region where the nurse is working.

These initiatives cannot be nor should they be imposed by government. They must be supported by the membership of both organizations. That is the labour law of this province. It is support for the collective bargaining process. I would say to the members of the House that it is most appropriate that be encouraged and supported in this province.

The Goldfarb report makes these comments about nurses' perception of the future: "In general, most nurses working as nurses feel that in the next 12 years or towards the year 2000, there will be improvements in all aspects of the nursing profession. While many sense that things will stay the same, a large proportion feel that things will get better in most areas. The data suggests, then, that nurses working as nurses now perceive that positive change is down the road, and many are keeping open minds that things will change for the better. Clearly, this contributes to their decision to remain as nurses."

I believe we are beginning to see the kind of positive changes that will improve the level of job satisfaction among nurses, changes that will increase their involvement and participation in health care decision-making. The regulations I announced in the House today have been under discussion for some time. In fact, I made a commitment when I met with nurses that we hoped to have those approved by cabinet and announced in this House before the end of this session.

I can say to all members of the House that today's regulatory changes are an important first step, but a significant step in ensuring that nurses play an important role in the decision-making process within their hospitals, that both staff nurses and nurse managers participate in the committee structures within the hospitals, and I look forward during the implementation process of these new regulations to the kind of consultation that has begun over the course of many weeks and months to continue into the future.

I can say to the members of this House that the commitment of the leadership of nursing and the commitment of the leadership of the hospital sector of this province is such that I believe we are making progress in achieving the kinds of results that can only be accomplished through the kind of partnership, consensus-building and facilitation which I have been so proud to be a part of.

Nurses have told me the issues that are being raised now are not new to them. They have been raising these same concerns for the past decade. In fact, I was recently shown a bulletin or a tabloid that was distributed in 1977 by the Ontario Nurses' Association. The banners and the stories were identical to the issues being discussed today.

The letter to the minister at that time—and I would say that the minister was a member of today's third party, one Dennis Timbrell—what I found was that many of the frustrations that are being expressed today are a result of a decade of discussion, some even suggested 15 years of discussion, of frustration, of no one listening.

The difference is that our government today is listening to the nurses and, more importantly, we are making the changes that will address their concerns. In this positive atmosphere, I can say that we are working together in a spirit of co-operation and that I approach the future with confidence.

Mr. Eves: It is somewhat of a distinction if not a pleasure to be able to participate in this debate this afternoon. We had a similar debate, as I am sure all members are aware, a week ago today on the state of health care in Ontario and the adequacy or inadequacy of the current government to provide an adequate health care service in Ontario.

The motion that is before us today in the name of the leader of the official opposition and member for York South I believe centres in on the specific issue of the nursing shortage and the problems the profession of nursing has within the system.

I must concur with many of the conclusions and statements this motion comes to. The minister talks about the announcement she made in the Legislature this afternoon, and indeed it is a positive announcement; it is a step in the right direction. The problem with the announcement, if there is any, is that it should have come about a year ago, when in March 1988 the Minister of Health, if she was not aware of the problem before then at least should have been aware when the very first report of the four that she refers to on the nursing shortage in Ontario was delivered to her office.

We on this side of the House have been asking the Minister of Health for over a year now to make sure that staff nurses—that is, the nurses who are on the front line of the health care system in Ontario, day in and day out—have an opportunity to present their viewpoints to advisory committees of hospitals and many other

institutional and perhaps not so institutional settings in the health care system in Ontario.

Up until today, we have absolutely not received even a slight positive inkling that the Minister of Health was going to act on this very important issue. This is one place where the minister could have acted. She is changing a regulation. For those members of the public out there who are interested, a regulation does not require the approval of the Legislature. It can virtually be done by any particular ministry at any time and it does not require a great deal of debate. It can just be done if the minister involved wants to do it.

We have waited for over a year to change this regulation. I would submit to the members of the Legislature and indeed the members of the Ontario public out there, that this change could have been easily a year ago. I do not know why we have dragged our feet for a year to finally come to the conclusion that staff nurses need some input on the ground floor of Ontario's health care system. Nurses are, after all, the largest group of health care professionals in our system. I think they deserve a lot more respect and responsibility than they have been given in the past.

1710

I have been raising in the Legislature over the last week the issue of some very frustrated nurses at the Toronto Western Hospital cardiovascular surgery unit here in Metropolitan Toronto. I think this issue epitomizes the frustration that nurses feel in our health care system today. The cardiac surgery unit at Toronto Western Hospital is renowned as the best—not one of the best—in Canada and one of the best worldwide.

The hospital board at the Toronto Hospital has been having a couple of think-ins, as they call them. It is proposing to merge the best cardiovascular surgery unit in Canada with that at the Toronto General Hospital site, and to move the one from the Toronto Western Hospital, where the Ministry of Health just a little over a year ago spent millions of dollars of taxpayers' money to build the Fell Pavilion, to increase the capacity and adequacy of cardiac surgery at the Toronto Western Hospital. Now we have the Toronto Hospital board thinking about turfing that and moving it up en masse to the Toronto General Hospital site.

I can tell members that the health care providers who contacted me, nurses and physicians alike, were astounded that the hospital board could even consider such a move or proposal. They got absolutely no response and

nowhere trying to talk to members of the hospital board until it was raised here in a public forum. I suppose it is unfortunate, but the only way the system can work is if some public and media pressure is brought to bear on the board members of Toronto Hospital. I was informed this morning that they have now decided they will rethink their proposal to merge the two cardiac surgery units.

If nurses had had this mechanism in place, which we asked the minister to put in place over a year ago, some of these problems could have been alleviated. The people who deliver health care on a day-to-day basis in Ontario would have had some input into such a suggestion. Hopefully, such a ridiculous proposal would never have hit the floor of the Legislature nor indeed have even been seriously considered by the board of directors of Toronto Hospital. We saw the same thing happen with the proposed merger of the Sunnybrook Medical Centre and Wellesley Hospital just a few short weeks ago.

The manner in which both of those matters were handled surely indicates that there is something wrong in the health care system and the mechanisms that even allow such proposals to get as far along in the system as they do.

We are talking about arbitration. The Ontario Hospital Association reached a settlement with the Ontario Nurses' Association without the necessity of going to arbitration. There is somewhat of an inconsistency, I suppose, in the health care system.

Optometrists thought they had a system. They bargained in good faith with the government and agreed to submit to a system whereby a committee would decide and make a recommendation to the government as to what their fee schedule should be under the Ontario health insurance plan. An independent arbitrator, Professor Rayner, was selected by the government as the independent chairman of this committee. What happened when that committee made a recommendation that the government did not like? It completely disregarded any recommendations made by an independent committee and it unilaterally imposed a 4.35 per cent reduction in optometrists' fees retroactive to April 1, 1988.

The same minister talks about a consultative, co-operative approach to government. Anybody who thinks that is a co-operative, consultative approach to government had better go look up the meaning of the words in the dictionary. There was unilateral imposition of the government's own fee schedule after leading the other party to believe that it was bargaining in good faith. Then they chose to disregard an independent commit-

tee which the government chose and whose chairman the government chose. I just do not know how one could possibly have any good faith in the government that is dealing with the issue.

This is not the only time that has been done. We have had this same Minister of Health and this same Ministry of Health and this same government virtually do the same thing to almost every group of health care providers in the health care system. Just a few short months ago we were in this Legislature talking about the Ontario Hospital Association and the problem with budget deficits of all the hospitals in Ontario. The government again mouthed platitudes about dealing in a co-operative, consultative approach.

Members should ask the administrator of Cambridge Memorial Hospital if he thinks this government has a co-operative, consultative approach. It has anything but; it has a confrontational approach. There again, the government appointed its own task force, its own group of people to do a study of Cambridge Memorial Hospital, among others. When it did not like what its own study said was true, it just chose to ignore it and unilaterally threw in its own independent investigator to investigate what its task force had supposedly already spent months and several hundred thousand dollars of the taxpayers' money investigating. They throw all that aside. They do not even tell the hospital they are doing it. That is the co-operative, consultative approach to health care in Ontario.

We now have the Ontario Medical Association approaching the government and saying:

"We agree that there may be some problems with respect to physician manpower, specialized areas and different regional geographic areas in Ontario. We would like to sit down with you in an open forum and discuss a solution to these problems, but we do not want to do it behind closed doors. We want to do it in a committee-type forum that is open to nurses, hospital administrators and other health care providers, as well as members of the public."

The minister rejected that claim out of hand. She wants to do it behind closed doors with the OMA and that is it. It is totally contradictory to the policy that she just announced here in the Legislature this afternoon, to the steps that she says she is taking.

Last Wednesday, February 8, we had the member for Sudbury (Mr. Campbell) speak briefly in a nonconfidence motion. He talked about health care services in the north. He made specific reference to the creation of district health

councils in Muskoka and Parry Sound, welcoming them to northern Ontario.

This is a sore point with me because this is the same government that committed itself on June 9, 1988, saying that all residents of the district of Parry Sound and Nipissing would be treated as part of northern Ontario for the purposes of all programs—with not one single exception; I can read the word “all” fairly well—administered by all ministries in the provincial government.

Surely programs administered by the Ministry of Health, the largest ministry in the provincial government, were covered by that commitment by the Premier and the Minister of Northern Development (Mr. Fontaine). Yet we now find the Minister of Health saying, in response to letters, questions and statements that I have made in the Legislature, trying to get her to commit to the fact that as of April 1, 1989, all people in the district of Parry Sound and Nipissing will be eligible for northern health travel grants, that that is not the case; and saying, “If we decide to review the program at some point in the future, we will take your concerns under consideration, but we have no intention of changing the program at the current time.”

They have had since June 9, 1988, to get their act together and they still have some time from now till April 1 to get their act together. All it requires is another change in regulations. I do not know why a change in regulations takes this minister so long. We raised the issue of nursing representation on advisory committees over a year ago and it has taken her a year to bring that one here. She has had since June 9, 1988, to clean up her act with respect to the residents of Parry Sound and Nipissing districts for northern health travel grants. She is telling us she cannot do it by April 1, 1989, almost a year later.

What is wrong over there? Surely the Premier, if he does not appreciate anything else, must appreciate the fact that his credibility is on the line with respect to this issue. He has the member for Sudbury who thinks we are part of northern Ontario. Every member of this Legislature who voted on my private member's resolution on this area voted in favour. Now we have a government whose biggest ministry does not want to deliver on the commitment.

With respect to the effects of the nursing shortage on the health care system, that combined with the treatment that Ontario hospitals have received in the last few months has led to many beds being closed at many hospitals across the province. This in turn obviously leads to a decreased health care system for most Ontarians.

1720

I find it very frustrating that when you ask the Minister of Health a question in question period, quite often you do not seem to be able to get a straight answer. She will mouth platitudes about just about anything and everything, but she will never respond directly to the question. I would appreciate and respect the minister a lot more if she would even give me an answer that I do not like. At least I would get a direct answer.

She talks about the increased capacity of the system and how this government is dealing with the same problems that previous governments dealt with and is responding to them. Here is the database summary of open heart surgery procedures in Metropolitan Toronto for the period 1981 to 1987. It was not done by the Progressive Conservative Party or any other political party; it was done by Dr. Salerno, who is a cardiovascular surgeon at St. Michael's Hospital. It was prepared for the Metropolitan Toronto District Health Council. These figures do not lie; these are cardiovascular surgeons' figures.

Interjections.

Mr. Eves: If the members opposite want to laugh about people dying on waiting lists for cardiovascular surgery, more power to them, but I do not happen to share those points of view. If that is what Liberal members of this government think, that is fine. These figures are very simple and they speak for themselves.

At the three hospitals that do cardiac surgery on adult patients, in 1981 there were 2,018 procedures done; in 1982, 2,235; in 1983, 2,476; in 1984, 2,559, and in 1985, 2,709. That is when the Progressive Conservative government was in power. What happened in 1985? The government changed hands. I think June 26 was the day. What is the figure for 1986? It is 2,687, starting to go down. What is the figure in 1987? It is 2,612, still going down. What is the figure for 1988, just concluded? It is 2,558. This government has now brought us back to where we were in 1984. Is that called expanding the capacity of the system?

We know there is new technology out there. We know there are increased demands on the system. That is exactly why the system has to expand and respond to the needs of the people of Ontario. The government is going the wrong way; it is going backwards. It is doing fewer procedures now than it did when it came into office in 1985; in fact, it did over 200 fewer last year. Meanwhile, the average time on the waiting list in February 1985 was 10 weeks and

the average waiting time in February 1988 was 18½ weeks.

This government is obviously not capable of coping with the problems of the health care system in Ontario. We have seen some very unfortunate circumstances where people on the waiting lists for cardiovascular surgery have died. The name of Mr. Coleman automatically comes to mind. How you could postpone somebody's heart surgery 11 times I will never know. If sincere steps were being made to cope and to expand the system, perhaps the criticism would not be as scathing as it is. But people are losing their lives waiting for cardiovascular surgery and all we have is a minister who can respond by reading cue cards and answers that her ministry officials obviously give her. It does not matter what question you ask, you get the same answer anyway.

We on this side of the House have no confidence in the health care system the way it is being administered in Ontario, and that is why we will be supporting the official opposition's nonconfidence motion this afternoon.

The Acting Speaker: The next speaker is the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. B. Rae: I naturally welcome the opportunity to participate in a debate on a nonconfidence motion which stands in the name of the official opposition and to say to the government, first of all, that it is interesting that, out of a cabinet of some 24 or 25, we have one minister here sitting in the far back row and that the Minister of Health has chosen to absent herself for the entire debate.

Mrs. Grier: And her parliamentary assistant.

Mr. B. Rae: And her parliamentary assistant, who is in and out. The minister was here for her own speech and for no one else's. I can recall this kind of arrogance and insensitivity and lack of interest in the discussions around this place under a previous administration. I can even recall commenting at that time that I found it strange when we had a debate in this House on issues of real importance to the people of the province, that there would not be more participation and presence on the part of ministers of the crown and, indeed, that even the first minister might, from time to time, trouble himself to come into the House.

Obviously, this government has decided that what goes on here in times when the opposition has something to say is of no importance to it. This is an attitude that I think is unfair to the people of this province more than it is unfair to anybody else, because it really means that when we have issues that need to be addressed and

discussed, this government simply is not there and this government simply is not listening.

I want to respond to the minister. I say this to those who are watching on television: It is a little strange to be responding to a speech by the minister when the minister herself has not troubled to be in the House. Her desk consists of the three large books which she was using to prop up her argument this afternoon. It was obviously carefully written for her by her staff, and I appreciate her speech, which touched on all the points that had been made and naturally praised the points she made this afternoon in carrying out some changes which are very long overdue in this province.

I do want to say that she did say one thing about me and my party which I want to respond to right off the top. When she suggests that I have ever said or for a moment believed that the collective bargaining process should be done away with, I can say to the minister, who does not have the courtesy to be here, she does not know what she is talking about. She betrays an ignorance of what we and nurses have been saying that is as profound as anything I have heard a Minister of Health or any minister of the crown say.

I am sorry she is not here to hear these words. She not only completely and utterly misunderstands—I am not allowed to say “misrepresents”—the arguments that have been made to her, not just by the New Democratic Party, not just by me as Leader of the Opposition, not just by our Health critic and by our Labour critic, but also completely and totally misunderstands and fails to comprehend the anger and frustration on the part of nurses who are voting with their feet.

If one has a three-year agreement and that three-year agreement does not permit itself the flexibility to respond to a crisis in a labour market, any commonsense view would be: “Open up the agreement and bargain it again to make sure that it deals with the current problem.” That is what needs to be done.

The Liberals had no hesitation in wiping out collective agreements when they were in Ottawa. The Tories, with the support of the Liberal Party in opposition, had no hesitation in wiping out the effect of every single collective agreement in place in this province under their wage control laws.

All we are suggesting is that with respect to a democratic request made on behalf of the Ontario Nurses' Association, the very least this government could do is deal directly with the hospitals

and the nurses and ensure that nurses do not end up leaving the profession simply because they are not getting enough money.

The minister could be here to hear these words, but I am telling her she does not know what she is talking about. I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, it is more than a little frustrating to me, as somebody who has been dealing with these health issues for some time, when I look at the issue which is as important as the health care issue, a problem that is as important as the question of how we treat our nurses, and we have a minister who does not even begin to understand what is being asked of her by the nursing profession when it comes to this question of how much money nurses are going to get and how their wages are going to be bargained and negotiated.

1730

Of course, we will respect the collective bargaining process, but collective bargaining was never intended to be a complete straitjacket which would prevent the solution of problems. It is intended to be a way of solving problems. A commonsense approach would be to say, "If that collective agreement is so tight in terms of the effect that it is having—"

Mr. Faubert: They signed it.

Mr. B. Rae: The member for Scarborough-Ellesmere (Mr. Faubert) says the nurses signed it and the nurses should simply live with it. That is his approach. That is the Liberal Party approach.

I say we cannot afford to take that kind of approach. If there are people lining up outside Scarborough General Hospital and they cannot get into the emergency ward, I want the member to be standing outside saying: "Well, the nurses signed the agreement. Too bad. They'll have to live with it." He can stand outside and use that kind of technical argument. He may be satisfied with that kind of technical nonsense. I do not think the patients of this province are satisfied with that kind of argument.

Mr. Faubert: That's not the argument and you know it.

Mr. B. Rae: That is the argument he is using. The member for Scarborough-Ellesmere says: "We're going to take the approach that they signed the contract. That's the way it's going to be for three years."

I am here to say that for the next two years, every time there is an ambulance driving around Scarborough looking for a hospital emergency ward that is open, let them stop by the constituency office of the member for

Scarborough-Ellesmere and he can sit back with his hands in his pockets and say: "Well, that's too bad. They signed that agreement. There's nothing we can do about it. Our hands are tied."

What nonsense, what absolute nonsense. The member should know and the minister should know that if the parties to a collective agreement agree that an agreement can be opened up, there is nothing stopping the parties from opening up a collective agreement. There is nothing stopping them.

Mr. Faubert: They don't agree to it.

Mr. B. Rae: To which we say, the Ontario Hospital Association might well be willing to open up a collective agreement if the minister and the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) were prepared to sit down and say what kind of funding is going to take place that is going to make that difference, what funding is going to happen that will make opening up that agreement a reality.

That is the question. The question is a commonsense approach to a problem which is one of health and of life. I am not prepared to see this question founder on a technicality. I do not think the patients of this province should be prepared to let it founder on a technicality or an approach that is so rigid that it fails to understand that what collective bargaining is all about is people saying: "Is this agreement working? Why isn't it working?"

If it is not working well enough to attract and keep nurses, then as a government which is the paykeeper, as a government which is in fact responsible for paying the nurses' salaries, that government ought to be there saying to the hospital association and to the nurses' association: "This isn't working well enough. We want you two to get together and find a solution, and we are prepared to be the funders of the decisions you arrive at."

What is wrong with that? What would be difficult with that? What would be any reason for saying that is not the approach one would take? Instead, what have we had? After a year and a half of studies, task forces and everything else, the very day we are debating this question of nonconfidence, the minister puts together, hastily, I might add—

Interjection.

Mr. B. Rae: The minister says, "Baloney." Let me tell her what baloney she is talking about. She does not have the kind of dictatorial authority over every partner in the health care system she might think she has.

Let me tell the minister that they talk to us, so her announcement today did not exactly have us

falling off our seats in surprise. We know precisely how much advance notice other people in the system had with respect to the particular wording of the regulations she produced today. We know precisely how long these discussions have been going on and precisely who was involved.

I can remember having a meeting with the Ontario Medical Association in the days under the Tories. That was in those days when I was first elected. I can remember going to a meeting of all these doctors, and they were talking about many of the things we have been talking about in this House for the last year and a half. They were talking about problems in surgery, about problems of care, about strains on the system. It was interesting.

I remember I said to Dr. Scully, who was one of the people there: "Why aren't you making any of this stuff public? Why aren't you talking about this stuff? Why don't we hear about these cases?" The doctor said: "You must be kidding. Do you know what the Tories will do to us and to the hospital we represent if we get out on a limb and say something about the system?"

We have seen a political change from one administration to another. What I find intriguing is that the same attitudes with respect to the health care system are being reflected by the people at the centre, but the same attitudes are not necessarily being reflected by all the people who are participating in the system.

I think a widespread debate on this issue is healthy and essential. I think it is time we put an end to the attitude and atmosphere of deference and the attitude and atmosphere of fear when people are afraid to speak out for fear of what will happen to them or to their hospital.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: That's nonsense.

Mr. B. Rae: The minister should look at what happened to the Cambridge Memorial Hospital. She should look at the attitude that was taken by that minister and by that minister's deputy and at the whole approach that took place in that hospital. I cannot imagine a situation that was more desperate and more difficult. It took immense courage on the part of the administrator of that hospital to finally say: "No, I'm staying. I'm going to stick it out."

I can tell the minister I was very much involved with that whole process, as was the member for Cambridge (Mr. Farnan). We know full well the kinds of pressures which are put on boards, which are put on people, which are put on all the parties in the system to keep their mouths shut, to do as they are told and not

participate and not resolve this problem. The last year and a half is the first time that the nursing profession has finally come out and told it like it is.

I do not think conditions in the nursing profession are dramatically different now than what they were five years ago. They are not. The minister says this is not some new phenomenon. She is quite right. This is not some new phenomenon. This is something that has been going on for some time. The minister says it is part of a general trend in the way in which women are treated in the workplace. She is right when she says those things.

Of course, women take a different attitude to nursing and to their work today than they took five, 10, 20 or 30 years ago. Of course that is what it is about. But the key question is—and this is why we focused our debate, in terms of the health care system, on this question of nursing—if you were to look over the last year and a half at every question we have asked in this House on the question of health care, and there have been a lot; if you look at the question of health care as it affects our institutions across the board, emergency care, the backups in the system, the whole range of institutional questions; indeed, if you look at the public health crisis and the problems we have in terms of delivering effective public health care across this province, everywhere you look you will find at the heart of the problem the question of nursing.

If you have people driving around, as we have, and ambulances that are driving halfway across the city in order to find an open emergency care ward, where does that come from? It comes from a crisis in nursing. If you look very directly at the challenge that is facing our critically ill heart patients, you will see that there are waiting lists today which are as long as 10 months and that you have patients who are baffled, and now terrified, by the waiting list system and are trying to find some answer. I get phone calls now at home from patients saying, "What can you do for my brother-in-law?" or, "What can you do for me?" All one can do is simply try to make inquiries and make sure that people are told about their rights, and so on, and the list. You cannot deal with it in any other way.

The origin and cause of that crisis is simply the failure on the part of this government to take the nursing crisis as seriously as it has needed to take it. I would defy anyone to go over the questions that we have raised in this House on this situation and you will see, over a period of a year, a government which has continually downplayed

the importance of the problem. It has said, from time immemorial: "It's under control. Don't worry."

Hospitals in Metropolitan Toronto are more than 1,000 nurses short, and in critical care they are about 150 nurses short. In northwestern Ontario—my colleagues have described it already, but I want to describe it once more, for the record—at a meeting of 22 health care agencies held recently in Thunder Bay, 12 indicated that patient health care has been compromised, in their view; it has been compromised because of a shortage of nurses.

1740

The minister has talked about all the reports. I do not know how a minister can talk about the reports that have been carried out, whether it is Goldfarb, the Meltz report or whatever report it is. Let's take those two as an example. What is the very first question, the very first point that is made by both those reports? The point made in both cases is that the government has to deal with the question of money. If it does not deal head-on with the question of money, it is not going to be able to solve the problem. That was the advice of the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario. That was the advice of the Ontario Nurses' Association. I might add that these are not organizations which always agree on everything, but they certainly agree on this. If they agree on this, it is for a very good reason.

The reason is simply this: We can give all the speeches we want about recognition, the importance of the work, the changes in women's work, changing values; nurses are voting with their feet. The reason they are voting with their feet and leaving the profession is that they are not making enough money and the value of the work they do is not recognized in the system.

The minister's response to this is to bring in the least change in the system that she possibly could on the very day we are debating this as a matter of confidence in this government. It has taken us over a year and a half to get the government to make a change. There was nothing stopping them from making this change. There was nobody in the system who was saying, "Don't make this change." Nobody was saying, "It's going to be a real problem for us." All the minister had to do was sit down a year and a half ago, get people together in her office and say: "This is the direction we are moving. This is how we are going to do it. This is the way it is going to be."

I do not see why it takes so long for this government to move, to respond, to act and to understand that we are in the middle of a nursing

crisis and that unless the minister understands that crisis, she will not understand why the health care system itself is in the state it is today.

It is, I suppose, once or twice in a term that we debate these motions of nonconfidence from our party, as we do those from the third party, but I want to say that I and my colleagues will be voting today against this government. We will be voting nonconfidence in this government on a very basic matter. As New Democrats, we feel very strongly about the health care system, about its integrity, about its quality, about its accessibility, about its funding, about its management and its operation.

I do not think I have seen in my time in politics a government that has responded less effectively to the health care system than this government today, that has responded more slowly, more clumsily and, yes, more vindictively to all those in the system who have complaints and who have voiced their complaints about the way the system is operating.

That is why, without reading the entire motion, I want to simply say we do not have confidence in this government. We do not have confidence in the Liberal Party's management of the health care system. We think its management of the health care system has been inept and unfair and has in fact endangered the health of a great many citizens of this province, which is precisely the opposite of what a government should be doing when it comes to the operation and management of our health care system.

That is why we shall be moving nonconfidence in this Liberal government.

1750

The House divided on Mr. B. Rae's motion, which was negated on the following vote:

Ayes

Allen, Breaugh, Bryden, Charlton, Cooke, D. S., Cousens, Cureatz, Eves, Farnan, Grier, Hampton, Johnson, J. M., Johnston, R. F., Laughren, Mackenzie, Marland, Martel, McCague, McLean, Morin-Strom, Philip, Pollock, Rae, B., Reville, Villeneuve.

Nays

Bossy, Brown, Callahan, Campbell, Caplan, Carrothers, Cleary, Daigeler, Dietsch, Eakins, Elliot, Elston, Epp, Faubert, Fleet, Fontaine, Fulton, Furlong, Grandmaitre, Haggerty, Kerrio, Keyes, Kozyra, LeBourdais, Leone, Lipsett, Lupusella, MacDonald, Mahoney, McClelland, McGuigan, McGuinty, McLeod, Miller, Morin, Neumann, Nicholas, Nixon, J. B.;

Offer, O'Neil, H., O'Neill, Y., Patten,
Phillips, Ray, M. C., Reycraft, Roberts, Smith,
D. W., Sola, South, Stoner, Tatham, Velshi,
Wilson, Wong, Wrye.

Ayes 25; nays 55.

The House adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

-
- Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breaugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)
Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health (Orillia L)
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)
Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)
 Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC)
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)
Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)
Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A., Speaker (Perth L)
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)
Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L)
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)
Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)
Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)
 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)
Grandmaitre, Hon. Bernard C., Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)
 Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)
 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)
Hošek, Hon. Chaviva, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)
 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)
 Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L)
Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G., Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L)
 Kormos, Peter (Welland-Thorold NDP)
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)
Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)
 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)
 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)
 Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)
 MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)
 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)
Mancini, Hon. Remo, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)
 Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)
 Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP)
 Matrundola, Gino (Willowdale L)
 McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)
 McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)
 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)
 McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)
 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)
McLeod, Hon. Lyn, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)
 Miclash, Frank (Kenora L)

Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)
 Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)
 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)
Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier,
 Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Eco-
 nomics and Minister of Financial Institutions
 (Brant-Haldimand L)
Oddie Munro, Hon. Lily, Minister of Culture
 and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)
O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and
 Recreation (Quinte L)
 O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)
 Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)
Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government
 Services (Ottawa Centre L)
 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)
Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and Presi-
 dent of the Council and Minister of Inter-
 governmental Affairs (London Centre L)
 Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)
Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship
 (Scarborough-Agincourt L)
 Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of
 the Committees of the Whole House (Prescott
 and Russell L)
 Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)
 Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)
 Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)
 Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)
 Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)
 Rae, Bob (York South NDP)
Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional
 Services (Timiskaming L)
 Ray, Michael C., Deputy Chairman of the
 Committees of the Whole House (Windsor-
 Walkerville L)
 Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)
 Reyecraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)

Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and
 Food (Huron L)
 Roberts, Marietta L. D. (Elgin L)
 Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)
 Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)
Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General
 (St. George-St. David L)
 Smith, David W. (Lambton L)
Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General
 (London South L)
 Sola, John (Mississauga East L)
Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour
 (York Centre L)
 South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)
 Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)
 Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)
 Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)
Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community
 and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
 Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)
 Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)
 Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glen-
 garry PC)
Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of
 Education (Wentworth North L)
 Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)
Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio
 (Dufferin-Peel L)
 Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)
Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy
 (Fort York L)
Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and
 Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)

*The alphabetical list of members appears in
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No. 148

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



First Session, 34th Parliament

Thursday, February 16, 1989

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer

Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, February 16, 1989

The House met at 11 a.m.

Prayers.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

ONTARIO NEW HOME WARRANTIES PLAN

Mrs. Sullivan moved resolution 63:

That, in the opinion of this House, the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations should consider strengthening the Ontario new home warranties plan by:

1. Adopting a standard form of agreement of purchase and sale, with rights and obligations of both purchaser and vendor delineated;

2. Introducing an optional extension of the Ontario new home owner warranty to cover minor and major structural defects, to allow warranties to apply for a period of up to two years of the date specified in the possession certificate;

3. Adopting a provision that would:

- (a) permit the purchaser at the time of closing to pay to the Ontario New Home Warranty Program the value of uncompleted work, and deduct the amount so paid from the balance due to the vendor on closing and

- (b) permit the purchaser to authorize the Ontario New Home Warranty Program to make one or more payments to the vendor as unfinished work is completed;

4. Extending the warranty provisions to alterations, deletions, additions or upgrades specified by the purchaser and included in the agreement of purchase and sale;

5. Extending the provisions of the act to include restorations, renovations and additions to existing residential properties.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Halton Centre has moved private member's notice of motion 63. I will listen to the honourable member for up to 20 minutes. If she wishes to reserve any of that time for the final discussion, that is within order. I will also listen to any other members for up to 10 minutes.

Mrs. Sullivan: This resolution is derived from the experiences of my constituents in a high-growth area who purchase new homes with all of the hopes and expectations that accompany that

and it is also derived from the experiences of people in the home building industry itself who face changes in their sector that have kept them scrambling to keep up.

To put the resolution in perspective; I would like to take a moment or two to describe the Ontario New Home Warranty Program. Since its inception as a provincial program in 1977, the Ontario New Home Warranty Program has provided protection for purchasers of every new home built in Ontario. In its 12 years of operation, close to half a million homes have been warranted by the plan.

The program requires that anyone who is selling or building a new home must be registered. It says that every seller of a new home must warrant to the person buying that the home is constructed in a workmanlike manner, is free from defects, is fit for habitation and is constructed in accordance with the Ontario Building Code.

The act provides further a warranty that the home is free from major structural defects. That includes defects that lead to failures in load-bearing portions of the building and other such serious problems as collapse of joints or roof structures or chemical failure of materials.

The act and its regulations and the practice which has evolved over a period of time are clearly an improvement over the caveat emptor approach. Warranty programs exist in all provinces and in the Yukon Territory. The Ontario program is, however, the only mandatory program in Canada and one of three mandatory programs in the world. In making improvements to the program, Ontario has looked to other jurisdictions, but just as important, it has looked to our own experiences and our own requirements.

The most recent enhancements to the program were introduced by the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Wrye), and they went into effect in June and August of last year. They addressed needed changes in meeting problems associated with delayed closings, major and minor substitutions of equipment or material, standards of workmanship, after-sale service and incomplete construction. These changes went a long way in helping the

purchaser, who faced continuing frustrations in reaching a satisfactory conclusion on the details of buying a new home, and they were welcomed.

The changes were made after consultation with the home building industry, consumer associations and people who work in the administration of the program itself. I think it important to note that there has been a continuing co-operative approach among the key players. It was very clear to all of these participants that changes were needed, and they were made. But problems still exist. While there are rational explanations for the problems—labour market conditions and sectoral growth—the explanations do not mask the need for additional action.

Since 1982, we have been in the midst of a sustained building boom in homes in Ontario. Both builders and buyers have been reeling from the shock of that boom, builders because of a continuing shortage of skilled artisans and tradesmen and buyers because their high expectations have often been dashed. We have had too many hopes, too many promises, too much anger and too much frustration.

Many of my constituents have been caught in this cycle. It is largely because of their experiences that I am putting forward very specific suggestions for consideration, but as well, my discussions with home builders, some of whom are also constituents, are part of the recommendations here and reflect some of their concerns.

Like many other industrial sectors which are struggling to attract and keep trained workers, the residential construction industry has been faced with increasing and sustained demand for output. Too often, it has coped with unskilled labour doing skilled jobs in a kind of on-the-job training scenario. The industry itself has recognized and made attempts to deal with this situation by sponsoring forums such as Future Building '88, designed to bring information about the industry to young people so they can see it as a legitimate career option.

The industry has also participated in community-college industry programs. By example, in Hamilton, some 100 students were involved over a period of two years. But the industry itself also admits that these efforts frequently are not enough to meet the demands of the marketplace.

The industry identified early some of the problems which were facing consumers as a result of a labour market condition. Difficulties with on-time completions brought late closings. Deficiencies in after-sale service to correct shortcomings were obvious to the industry. If they were obvious to the industry, they were

more than obvious to the home buyer, who often could not move into the new home on the appointed date or, if able to move in, had to put up with unfinished or badly finished work and the prospect of workers where a wall should be.

From both sides of the contract, I, who have never occupied a new home, came to learn a great deal. One of the things I learned from industry representatives is that many, if not the majority of people, who are buying new homes do so without legal counsel. Verbal understandings, or misunderstandings, and the pitch of the eager salesman are too often built into conceptions of what the contract of purchase and sale includes or does not include.

The Toronto Home Builders' Association has drafted a standard agreement of purchase and sale which is used by approximately half of regional new home builders. I asked a group of people in my riding, the Glen Abbey Ratepayers Association, to review the contract from a consumer's point of view. Many people in the association have had recent experience in buying a new home and signing an agreement to purchase.

1110

I also asked other people who were home buyers who had faced problems with their contracts to consider the merits of a standard contract of purchase and sale. The conclusion was very clear. There is a great deal of interest in a standard agreement of purchase and sale, and a sense that, were it equitable to both buyer and seller, it would be a useful addition to the process of new home purchase.

I noted that many of the observations put forward by the people underlined the need for strengthened communications, by contract if necessary, between buyer and seller. Suggestions for improvement related directly to the Ontario New Home Warranty Program's addendum to agreement of purchase and sale, which is built into the Toronto Home Builders' Association standard agreement.

But there were specific other areas noted as well, including extending the buyer's right to have reasonable opportunities to visit the property during the construction period and a need for specific consultation and agreement on any alteration of the plans or specifications or substitution of materials.

Words used in the Toronto Home Builders' Association agreement were of some concern. What does "substantially complete" or "reasonably may be occupied" mean to the family who is

taking possession of a property if the dwelling is not in truth ready for comfortable occupancy?

From a buyer's point of view, this kind of communication was not seen simply as a matter of courtesy on behalf of the vendor; it was seen as a vitally important part of the purchaser's right to know about the progress, quality and standards of what will become his property. If that kind of information cannot be guaranteed by a handshake or an understanding as it might have been in another time, then the conclusion was that it should be written down and made more formal.

My constituents who were purchasers tell me that a standard agreement would be a step forward. The industry says it would be a step forward. The next step then is to produce a standard agreement of purchase and sale applicable throughout the province that is equitable for buyer and for seller. That is my first recommendation for strengthening the program.

My second recommendation relates to the time period of the warranty itself. In Ontario and elsewhere, the warranty takes effect when the purchaser takes possession of the home and a certificate of possession is issued. The certificate is completed only after a joint inspection of the house by the buyer and seller, during which time all observable defects are noted.

That list may be long or it may be short, but what it includes are things that are clear to the eye on a walkabout, and therefore the list tends to underline the obvious. Any other defects in workmanship and materials which are identified by the purchaser over the course of the first year of occupancy must be raised directly with the vendor, who is expected to correct the deficiencies.

In the case of major structural problems, the defects must be identified before the end of the fifth year of occupancy. In 1987, I should point out, Ontario extended the basic warranty period to two years with respect to water penetration in the basement or foundation of a new home.

What purchasers tell me, however, is that on the basic defects a one-year identification period is not enough. The kitchen cupboard may work itself loose from its ceiling join 15 months after occupancy. The weakened carpenter's glue on the balustrade may not be apparent until a few months after a full season of central heating. The improper fitting of a window or the use of wrong paint on the exterior surface may not become obvious until more than 12 months have passed.

Purchasers have told me that they would like to see an optional extension of the warranty for what are known as minor defects—which are not

at all minor, I should point out, to the new home owner—to ensure that the identification and correction of defects in workmanship and materials can be warranted for two years following the date of possession.

Their views, I should point out, have been supported by the consumer legislative review project. In its report, the review team has gone further than my constituents and has said that the extension of the warranty provisions for two years should be provided as a matter of course.

Similarly, my recommendation would extend the warranty provisions on major defects for an optional one-year period to six years. The legislative review project has recommended that the period should be extended from the current five-year coverage to a period of eight years after possession.

Whatever time periods are chosen, the essence of the issue is that there is a need for more time and that there are very practical reasons behind the identification of this area as one where change should take place.

Another area where there is a concurrence on the need for fairness between home buyers and home builders, but less of a measure of concurrence on how that fairness should be achieved, relates to the question of holdback on payment on work that is incomplete. Builders recognize that there is not a full measure of equity when the buyer must close the deal and pay in full for work that is not yet complete. They say, however, that if the buyer is allowed to hold back a portion of the payment of the purchase price, there will be an inevitable increase in the cost of the house to cover the costs associated with the holdback.

The purchaser sees the holdback in a different light, however. First, there is a sense that there should not be an obligation to pay for work that is not done or is not done properly. Second, there is a view that if the builder knows that the work will not be paid for until it is done, the work will be done and it will be done in a satisfactory manner.

I am pleased to incorporate in full into my resolution the recommendation which came from the Glen Abbey Ratepayers Association. I think it provides a recognition of both builder and buyer interests and provides a level of comfort to both. It says that the purchaser should be able to withhold moneys due on closing to the seller to the value of the uncompleted work and, in turn, should deposit that amount in trust with the home warranty program. The purchaser can then authorize the program to pay moneys to the seller as work is completed to a satisfactory level.

That recommendation makes eminent sense. Both buyer and seller are protected and ill will is lessened because both would have a promise and a guarantee of performance. This would not be the first time that common sense has prevailed in improvements to the home warranty program, but I believe that this recommendation is particularly worth exploring.

Another commonsense recommendation concerns the situation when the purchaser contracts for alterations and changes to the specifications of the model home or model house plan: that those upgrades, deletions or changes would be covered by the warranty program. It seems almost silly to me that if pine floors are standard in the agreement and a purchaser contracts for and is willing to pay for maple floors, for example, that the maple floors would not be covered under the warranty program. I am told that is so because they would be contractual add-ons, and yet the purchaser should be afforded the same protection for the correct installation of the maple floors as for the pine floors and the equivalent guarantees of quality.

The recommendation to extend the warranty provisions to specified alterations, deletions, additions or upgrades, which are included in the agreement of purchase and sale and which are carried out by the builder, is straightforward.

My last recommendation is less easy to deal with, but I believe it should be on the table. My suggestion is that the warranty program should be extended to include restorations, renovations and additions to existing homes.

Many people in my community and elsewhere have opted not to get into the new home market but to change what they already have to meet changing circumstances. In some cases, families are welcoming grandparents to their homes or they may be seeing the return of married children with their own offspring, or children who have completed their schooling but do not yet have the wherewithal to establish an independent home may be coming back to the parents' place. Rather than change communities, the choice is to adapt home surroundings to changing demands.

An addition is a realistic alternative. Other families choose to renovate to bring older houses into a more modern phase and some of us who have been categorized as fools, and I count myself as one, choose to restore historic or near-historic properties.

There is a segment of the building industry that is very skilled and very conscientious in addressing each of these varied requirements, and I would be the first to point out that it rarely

encompasses the new home builder who works in a different sector.

One of the strengths of the home warranty program is the registration process and the authority to deregister the nonperformer. Another strength is the warranty that work will be completed in a workmanlike manner, free from defects, constructed in accordance with the Ontario Building Code and fit for habitation.

Once again, it makes sense that similar rules could apply to another sector of the shelter industry without duplicating the bureaucracy. The experience of the people in the Ontario New Home Warranty Program could well benefit this increasing sector.

The legislative review project has suggested that home improvement sellers should continue to be registered with the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, but points out that they are now classified as itinerant sellers. Why should they not be registered as a segment of the home construction industry?

1120

The review talks about improved contractual disclosure, including the commencement and completion dates, and establishment of penalties if work is not completed on time. The review also recommends a home improvement compensation fund in the event of discontinuance of business or bankruptcy of the home improvement specialist.

To me it is obvious that we have an argument for extension of the Ontario New Home Warranty Program and, further, that we have the experience to make it work. I think that the person who decides to add on or to renovate or restore should have equivalent protection to the person who buys new. Whether from a cost benefit or an efficiency analysis, we should use what we already have that we know works well that has a flexibility that allows adjustment to protect a different sector of consumers.

I hope that members in the House will support these recommendations and that the ministry will consider them. They do not come from a vacuum, but are a result of interventions from people who are buyers and people who are sellers. They make sense to me and I hope that they made sense to my other colleagues in the House as well.

I would like to reserve any remaining time for the conclusion of the debate.

Mr. McCague: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I did not want to interrupt the member for Halton Centre, who is not the subject of the few words I would like to say on a point of order under standing order 71.

We began our proceedings this morning at 11 instead of 10, as would be the norm. The reason that we did not consider a private member's bill at 10 this morning is not clear to me. I can only speculate as to why there are no Liberal members prepared to take advantage of the private members' opportunity made available to all backbenchers.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. M. C. Ray): Yesterday, on a motion by the member for Fort William (Mrs. McLeod), the acting government House leader at the time, it was ordered by the Legislative Assembly "that, notwithstanding standing orders 2(a) and 71(b), the House shall meet at 11 a.m. on Thursday, February 16, 1989, to consider one item of private members' public business and that, notwithstanding standing order 71(h), the requirement for notice be waived with respect to ballot item 63."

Does the member have another point of order?

Mr. McCague: Mr. Speaker, standing order 71 clearly says that we need two weeks' notice for private members' bills and we have no notice whatsoever for next—

The Acting Speaker: Order. I remind all members that we are now using the one hour of available time on these dubious points of order.

Mr. Callahan: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: The member just speaking is, in fact, speaking to the ruling you made. That is out of order. The only right he has is to appeal the ruling of the chair.

The Acting Speaker: The question of notice was dealt with in yesterday's order, which I quoted.

Mr. Farnan: As the New Democratic Party critic for the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations and as the member for Cambridge, a community experiencing considerable growth in recent years, I am very concerned about the strengthening of the Ontario New Home Warranty Program. Experience has demonstrated the need for legislation that will provide protection and fairness to new home buyers.

Surely the time is long overdue for the government to seriously address the hazards, risks and uncertainties experienced by home purchasers in Ontario. This is not a new problem. New Democrats have been pressing for consumer protection in this area for many years, and all members of the assembly will attest to the long and vigorous campaign waged by Mel Swart, the recently retired member for Welland-Thorold, to have the government introduce consumer protection legislation for home buyers

and home owners. Indeed, my predecessor as NDP Consumer and Commercial Relations critic even went so far as to draft appropriate legislation and press a succession of Liberal ministers to take effective action.

On December 17, 1986, then Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, the member for Wilson Heights (Mr. Kwinter), announced certain revisions to the new home warranty program and said that these changes, plus tough policing, "will provide the home buyers of this province with the best consumer protection available in Canada today."

Tell that to the home purchasers who may well be forced into an apartment as they await the construction of their new home. Tell that to the tens of thousands who are forced into similar situations by the failure of the developer-builder to meet completion dates. Tell that to the young couple whose roof leaks, whose drywall crumbles or whose basement is flooded. Tell that to the occupants without a driveway and proper grading and with a garden of rocks. Tell that to the family that takes possession of its home in desperation, realizes that there are deficiencies in the painting, finishing, trim or brickwork, and then embarks on the often hopeless task of getting the builder to remedy minor or major structural defects or to finish uncompleted work. Tell that to the countless individuals and families who have cut their losses and simply given up in frustration.

Now, two years later, the consumer is still suffering and has little meaningful protection.

We must face the fact that some developer-builders are using unrealistic closing dates as a gimmick to promote sales. This results in less than quality workmanship, as corners are cut in an attempt to meet these unattainable closing dates. This is further compounded by unskilled labourers doing skilled work.

Apprenticeships are not required for carpentry or bricklaying. While it has made available, through community colleges, 20-week training programs in these trades, the government has given no consideration to making these training programs compulsory. It is little wonder that the home purchaser is so often confronted with an unsatisfactory and deficient product as a result of shoddy workmanship.

Another practice involves the developer-builder consciously delaying completion in order to get a higher price from a new buyer if the original one backs off because of the delay.

In all of these circumstances, it is the buyer who loses. I was under the naïve belief that a

major function of a consumer minister was to protect consumers against situations like these, yet Consumer and Commercial Relations ministers have rejected legislative action based on the argument that there was only a small segment of the building industry creating problems. Well, only a small segment of motorists drives while impaired. Would the minister suggest that we should not have drunk-driving laws? Of course not. Why then would the minister refuse to legislate against those who create horrendous problems in new home sales, even if it is only a minority of developer-builders who are guilty? Prevention of these problems is not difficult to achieve. It is the lack of political will on the part of this Liberal government that has permitted them to occur.

I support the general intent of the member for Halton Centre in her desire to strengthen the Ontario New Home Warranty Program. Certainly, it must be mandatory that a standard form of agreement of sale be used. I am also supportive of the recommendations that would withhold from the developer-builder an amount equivalent to the uncompleted work at the time of closing. This money would be paid by the purchaser to the Ontario New Home Warranty Program and would be relayed to the developer-builder in instalments as the unfinished work was completed. These measures would provide the home purchaser with a considerable degree of protection, which does not exist at the present time. They would give the purchaser some leverage in having outstanding work completed and, at the very least, they would ensure that the purchaser is not paying for work that might never be completed.

However, there is little in this resolution that would penalize a builder-developer for not living up to the terms of the agreement.

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In my view, it is not unreasonable that where the builder-developer fails to meet the completion date of an agreement, substantial penalties be paid by the developer-builder to the purchaser, and that where there is a long postponement of completion, the buyer would have the option of cancelling the purchase contract with the down payment refunded and interest and penalties levied against the builder.

An independent panel including consumer representatives would be established with authority to waive part or all of the late-completion penalties, if it was established that the delay was beyond the builder's control as a result of strikes, unavailability of materials, etc.

Thousands of new home buyers have been severely hurt or seriously inconvenienced by late completions. This is the type of legislation that would guarantee the future protection of consumers in the housing market. Many of the structural defects, both minor and major, are only evidenced after new home owners have lived in their home for some time. It would certainly make a lot of sense to allow warranties to apply for a period of up to two years of the date specified in the possession certificate.

I would go further and suggest that the present guarantee fund of the Ontario New Home Warranty Program, which is currently used to correct certain defaults by builders, should be extended to provide coverage to include home completion. Home purchasers should not have to absorb the costs of renting an apartment while they wait after the completion date to take possession. These costs should be drawn from the guarantee fund, into which the builders would contribute.

The use of such a fund for protecting home purchasers is not unreasonable or unique in any way. There is a travel industry fund to protect travellers and there is a compensation fund to protect motor vehicle buyers from lawsuit or bankruptcy or other failure of the dealer to fulfil purchase contracts. The purchase of a new home is the single greatest expenditure that most people make in a lifetime. Why should that purchase not be protected in a manner similar to purchases of automobiles or travel?

It is significant that the travel industry fund is financed by the agent and travel businesses. The same kind of financing is used for the motor vehicle dealers' fund. Therefore, the builders, not the customers, should finance the building completion fund as part of the new home warranties plan, even if that means new enrolment fees for them.

Finally, it makes very good sense to extend the warranty provisions to alterations, deletions, additions or upgrades specified by the purchaser and included in the agreement of purchase and sale and to further extend the provisions of the act to include restorations, renovations and additions to existing residential properties.

Given the failure of the Liberal government to seriously address the abuses to which the home-buying consumer is subjected, I commend the member for Halton Centre in bringing forward her resolution. Much of the substance of her resolution has been championed by New Democrats for many years now. It contains many suggestions, promoted by Mel Swart, that would

improve the situation of the home buyer and the residential owner and is certainly an improvement on the current situation. It is a good first step.

It is sad that a private member must prod her own government to action when the evidence is so overwhelming that the consumer is in such desperate need of protection in the housing market. However, I am sure New Democrats will see in the member's presentation of her resolution the dawning of enlightenment on the Liberal benches. We New Democrats have a tradition of promoting innovative and progressive ideas and we rejoice in prodding the Liberal government, however reluctant it might be, to enact legislation that will provide some reasonable degree of protection, fairness and justice for home owners.

If Mel Swart were here today, I think he would say, "We've got them moving in the right direction, but let's keep up the pressure until we get the kind of legislation the home buyers and the home owners of Ontario deserve."

Mr. McLean: I want to speak briefly on this resolution before us today. However, I find it difficult to participate in a debate when we get such short notice. This House, I understand, is having a very hard time controlling its agenda—we did not start today until 11 o'clock—and I find it very demoralizing.

I want to talk about the resolution with regard to the Ontario New Home Warranty Program which we had before the standing committee on the Ombudsman last year, in August, to look in depth with regard to the Ontario New Home Warranty Program.

I can tell the members that the objective of the Housing and Urban Development Association of Canada new home warranty program was "to establish, organize and administer in Ontario a new home warranty program for the benefit of persons who purchase or agree to purchase residential housing from builders who are participants in such program, and in connection therewith, to give warranties, commitments, undertakings and guarantees to such purchasers to protect them against substandard construction, faulty workmanship and materials."

It was "to promote better understanding and communications between builders and purchasers of new homes"; it was "to provide purchasers of new homes with a forum for complaints and grievances relating to the failure of participating builders to fulfil warranties and guarantees so that such complaints and grievances may be dealt with in an expeditious and equitable manner."

It also goes on and says: "Once purchasers become owners, they are provided with a one-year warranty on workmanship, a two-year warranty against leakage of the basement and a five-year warranty against major structural defects. Again, if there is a dispute between the builder and the owner, the program will move in, mediate and conciliate at the request of either party and offer a decision as to the benefits a purchaser is to receive. Maximum coverage is \$50,000. This is a conciliatory, not an adversarial process. In many instances, program staff help to resolve contentious issues between owners and builders that are not provided for as a part of the plan."

During the testimony given at the evidence with regard to the Ontario Home Builders' Association, the member's colleague the member for Halton North (Mr. Elliot) said, "I would like to add my congratulations and thanks to those who have already said thank you for a very good presentation here."

The member for Halton North went on: "In glancing quickly through the statistics, as I indicated, this morning I think, the Ontario New Home Warranty Program people should be very pleased with their record to date. It is a very impressive program and I do not think very many people are getting through the cracks in the particular program." That is coming from the member's colleague, the member for Halton North.

The member for Halton North also said: "I have found in my experience with the program it is excellent, as you have said, and my concern is twofold. One is that it is so excellent that those squeaky wheels that are really going after restitution of builders are getting more than their fair share."

He also says: "I am not suggesting that the warranty people go overboard in satisfying the claims unnecessarily, but they have been very accommodating in the experience I have had in this." He even talked about how well this system that the member wants to amend is working. He said, "...but if you discover something like that while doing a renovation in the basement two years after the home was purchased, at the present time, technically it would not be covered."

Mr. Heron, from the Ontario Home Builders' Association, said: "No, it would be covered. It is covered under the structural warranty." The member for Halton North said, "So it is up to five years for the structural warranty, "and the witness said, "Yes." The member said, "Good."

I would like to indicate that the member for Chatham-Kent (Mr. Bossy) had indicated that it falls right in line with what I wanted to ask concerning fixing what is not already broken. So the member's own colleagues are saying what a wonderful program this is that she wants to amend. The Ombudsman's representative, with whom we were dealing in this program, indicated: "We are here for a couple of reasons." He said: "In our experience, we do receive a mere handful of complaints a year against the program. Not very many. There are a number of reasons for that. First, as Dr. Hill said in his position paper, the program appears to be working well, because we do not get that many complaints."

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Here we have a member who has a resolution to amend the Ontario New Home Warranty Program, which her colleagues say is a wonderful plan. I will be listening carefully today and I hope the member for Halton North participates in this debate to compliment further how well the program is working so that perhaps some of the comments that he made in committee may be verified.

I am a strong believer in the home warranty program that is in place. I think it does an excellent job, as has been indicated, and perhaps the member for Halton Centre should be looking at one or two amendments with regard to the numbers of years that are involved. I find her resolution with regard to the new home warranty program rather interesting.

Mr. Offer: It is my pleasure to join the debate on this resolution of the member for Halton Centre and to congratulate her on a very important resolution.

This resolution is important in two ways. It is important because it puts forward specific proposals for consideration; I want to deal with those proposals in some detail later on. Second, it also sends out a very clear message that the Ontario New Home Warranty Program is one which is constantly changing, constantly needing analysis, a re-examination, to make certain that it meets the needs of the persons it was designed to protect.

I think this resolution, because it comes to grips with and addresses those two very important points, is one which should be supported by all members of this Legislature.

I have had occasion to view in many ways at first hand the workings of the Ontario New Home Warranty Program, what was originally known as the Housing and Urban Development Associa-

tion of Canada. When one deals with the program, we must be very clear that we are not criticizing the builders or the building industry.

The builders and the building industry are there to construct homes and to sell those homes in accordance with an agreement of purchase and sale, and generally that is indeed exactly what happens. However, there are occasions when the purchasers of new homes do require extra protection—protection from some builders who, because of financial reasons, are unable or unwilling to complete homes. That is what this program is designed to address.

I would like to step back in time in dealing with the history of this program, because its history indeed is not terribly long. This program came into force first, I believe, in 1976-77. Before the existence of a formal warranty program, many builders offered one-year warranties to their own customers.

In 1976 HUDAC's new home warranty program was implemented in Ontario by the Ontario council of HUDAC, which is now called the Ontario Home Builders' Association. This was a voluntary program and it was established in May 1976.

The Ontario New Home Warranty Program became provincial law on December 31, 1976, which superseded the voluntary type of plan. Since its inception on January 1, 1977, this program has provided protection for every new home built for sale in Ontario, a total of somewhat more than 480,000 homes. Let's be certain that this particular program is self-funding. It does not cost the taxpayers any money. It is, and we must be very clear about it, the only mandatory home warranty program in Canada; indeed, one of only three in the world. So we are talking about a very specific, unique form of protection given to the purchasers of new homes in Ontario. I have been given some information that the program, since its inception, has paid out almost \$32 million in claims to home purchasers.

This warranty program is administered by a board of directors composed generally of eight members nominated by the Ontario Home Builders' Association, and one representative from each of the Ontario division of the Consumers' Association of Canada, mortgage lenders, mortgage insurers, municipalities, the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations and the manufactured housing industry.

Not only is this program dealing with the protection given to new home purchasers, it also has another function which is, in many areas, to

educate and inform consumers of their rights to protection and also to educate builders in order to improve the standard of home construction in Ontario. So this program is not just protection given to purchasers of new homes, but it also is a very important program in terms of educating the public at large.

Outside of the specifics of this resolution is the message that the program must constantly undergo a re-examination and a reanalysis. I am a member in an area which is growing dramatically, not only industrially and commercially, but certainly residentially. I have seen examples of this program working. I have seen examples in some cases where a particular individual has had a whole home rebricked. That protection was allowed under the program.

However, I have also seen examples where the program has not provided protection—indeed, cases of people who contracted to buy a home and, prior to completion of the transaction, the builder went bankrupt and they were left without any real remedy. I believe this resolution is important because it does re-examine and re-analyse whether the program is continuing to meet the needs of the people for whom it was designed.

I would like to deal with some of the specifics of this resolution because I think these are very well thought out improvements to the program. The first I would like to talk about is the adopting of a standard form of agreement of purchase and sale with rights and obligations of both purchaser and vendor delineated.

I guess in this type of an issue you really have two countervailing factors. Number one, people who buy new homes, whether it is in an active or a less active real estate market, generally do not seek legal advice prior to signing the agreement. They generally do not seek legal advice before what is for most people the single largest purchase they will ever make in their lives. I think that is an important fact to keep in mind. On the other hand, one must wonder whether a standard form agreement of purchase and sale will promote their seeking such legal advice prior to entering into an agreement. I think such a standard agreement of purchase and sale will not in many ways promote people to seek lawyers.

However, the fact of the matter is that in most cases—and most members in the Legislature and certainly most members of the practising bar and most people who buy new homes know that they do not seek legal advice prior to entering into an agreement—a standard form agreement will provide some greater protection to the purchaser

of a new home, not only protection in terms of the terms and conditions of the agreement, but also in terms of confidence that this is an agreement which is accepted and acceptable throughout the province and is one which they can rely on. I think it is an important aspect in increasing the protection given to purchasers of new homes.

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Finally, I would like to talk about the optional extension of the Ontario New Home Warranty Program. I remember when the program was first introduced, there were generally two forms and two time limits. There was a five-year time limit for a major structural defect and a one-year time period given for a minor structural defect. With respect to the major structural defect, the five-year limit is still in existence. With respect to the minor structural defect, it still applies in all cases except to water leakage in a basement. That has been extended by one year to two years.

I believe very much that the member for Halton Centre has really captured an increased protection that should be given to the purchaser in terms of extending at least the minor protection on an optional basis a further year. Many times, the time period in which you complete the transaction really presents a difficulty in uncovering any defects within one year. I think the proposal made by the member for Halton Centre is one that should be taken into consideration very seriously. I would like to compliment the member on a very important resolution that will protect, in a very strong way, members of the purchasing public.

Mr. Pollock: There are a few things I would like to put on the record.

One of them, in regard to this particular resolution, is the fact that I have served on the standing committee on the Ombudsman with the government members, and in the 1988 report, Dr. Hill recommended expanded jurisdiction. We have had several meetings on expanded jurisdiction. Those recommendations included expanded jurisdiction over the children's aid societies, hospital boards and the Ontario New Home Warranty Program. We have had these people come before our committee and make comments.

As my good colleague the member for Simcoe East (Mr. McLean) just mentioned, some of the government members spoke in favour of what was in place right at the present time and felt that the Ontario Home Warranty Program was working reasonably well. In discussing this at different times on the committee, I have to admit I did not get a feeling from government members

on whether or not they wanted expanded jurisdiction over the Ontario New Home Warranty Program by the Office of the Ombudsman. That still seems to be in limbo.

I really believe they are not going to go for expanded jurisdiction over the Ontario New Home Warranty Program. In a way, I would tend to agree with them for the simple reason that this is not funded in any way by the government; it is funded totally by the builders. Therefore, I tend to agree with them that we should not go for expanded jurisdiction in this case.

We are still discussing expanded jurisdiction as far as hospital boards and the children's aid societies are concerned. They are getting some funding from the government. In fact, in some cases it is up to 80 per cent.

So this whole resolution seems to be a bit of a red herring, to take away from whether we give expanded jurisdiction to the Ombudsman or not. It is a concern to me. It is a little like the resolution we had last week when the member for Northumberland (Mrs. Fawcett) asked the Ministry of Natural Resources to put legislation in place banning all-terrain vehicles and dirt bikes. They have the authority to do that right now, so it is along the same line as that particular resolution.

I think we all know that even if the Ombudsman took over expanded jurisdiction, he cannot enforce anything. He can investigate and write a report on it, but he really cannot enforce it.

We have two chances at the present time, one to bring in legislation with regard to the Ontario New Home Warranty Program and another one to update it, so before too long, they should have all the holes plugged and have a good program in place.

I do not have an awful lot of fault to find with the present home warranty program. I just wonder how far back we can go in investigating things. We could also run into a situation where people will do something to the property, to the structure. For instance, they could remove a support post and cause some problems to the building, and that is not the builder's fault. It is pretty hard to prove who did what and when. This creates a lot of investigation and a lot of problems.

I do not believe we can solve all the problems with the home warranty program. I just want to put a few of those things on the record. I would ask the member for Halton Centre to comment

briefly on what she thinks should take place as far as extended jurisdiction of the Ombudsman is concerned.

Mr. Speaker: I will listen to the member for Halton Centre for the final two minutes.

Mrs. Sullivan: I am interested in the remarks of my colleagues the member for Cambridge (Mr. Farnan), the member for Simcoe East and the member for Mississauga North (Mr. Offer) relating to the program itself, and comments made by the member for Simcoe East relating to statements of the member for Halton North in the standing committee on the Ombudsman.

I think it is very clear that the Ontario New Home Warranty Program is a good program. That does not necessarily say we should not have an opportunity to make it a better program. Many people in my riding, like people in Cambridge, like people in Mississauga North, like people in many other areas of the province, have indeed been served and have had no problems that could not be solved outside the circumstances of the warranty program. However, many other of my constituents, like constituents in other places, have had serious problems that could not be solved within the current bounds of the program. That is why I have put these very specific recommendations forward. I could have included other ones as well.

I believe the program should be strengthened. The history of activity in the program and change to the program in the past has been one of flexibility. It has been characterized by a flexible approach, by changes which are made to meet the needs of the times and the needs of economic and other influences in the industry.

One of the other things that has been very clear is that as changes have been made to the program to strengthen it in the past, there has been a very strong co-operation among the industry, consumer and warranty program people.

I believe these recommendations that have been put forward make sense. They are a result of interventions from people who are buyers and who are sellers and I would appreciate the support of my colleagues in the House in ensuring that they reach the attention of the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

Motion agreed to.

The House recessed at 12 noon.

AFTERNOON SITTING

The House resumed at 1:30 p.m.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

PLANT CLOSURE

Mr. Farnan: Yesterday, Inglis Ltd. announced the shutdown of its Toronto plant within a year, and a restructuring that will see the loss of 60 jobs in Cambridge and 25 jobs in Montmagny, Quebec.

New Democrats and trade unions predicted the consequences of the free trade agreement in the appliance industry.

As the member for Cambridge, a major concern for me is that displaced Cambridge workers should be treated fairly. In discussing the benefits that these displaced workers might expect with John Utter, the Inglis director of corporate industrial relations, he indicated that the company would be discussing severance arrangements with union representatives. These severance packages, he suggested, would apply only to the Toronto employees involved in the shutdown situation, but not to the Cambridge employees who are involved in a layoff due to decreased work orders.

The argument for treating the Cambridge workers in the same manner as the Toronto employees is obvious. All are employed by the same company. The decision to shut down the Toronto plant results in the loss of jobs for Inglis Cambridge employees who produce dishwasher parts for the Toronto operation. It appears to me that basic justice demands that the Cambridge employees should receive the same severance package as the Toronto workers negotiated between Inglis and the union in the months ahead.

Surely it must be obvious that one company shutting down an operation that is supplied parts by a sister company ought to treat all of the displaced employees in a uniformly fair manner.

NATIVE PEOPLE AND THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Mr. Eves: Yesterday, the Assembly of First Nations told Ontario's Race Relations and Policing Task Force that racism is alive and well in Canada with respect to the treatment of native people and called for a wide examination of the problems facing the native people in their dealings with the justice system.

Our party echoes those concerns. It was only two days ago that my colleague the member for Carleton (Mr. Sterling) joined with the Native Peoples Justice Review Committee in calling for a full public inquiry on the issue of native justice in Ontario.

I was dismayed to note that the day they demonstrated here at Queen's Park, no government representative was available to speak to the native people. They protested the sentence of two years less a day given to Joseph Constantineau for committing an indignity to the dead body of Virginia Nootchtai from the Whitefish Lake Indian reserve. Ontarians should be appalled not only by this heinous crime but as well by a justice system which appears to be unequal in its treatment of our native population.

The recently announced provincial task force to study justice services among aboriginal communities is not what is needed. We do not need another task force. What we do need is a full public inquiry such as the government of Manitoba is presently undertaking. The time for study is over; the time for action is now.

CONTROL OF SMOKING

Ms. Hart: I rise today to commend the staff and students at Leaside High School in my riding of York East for their efforts to promote nonsmoking at school. Sixty pairs of students consisting of a smoker and a nonsmoking buddy entered a contest to quit and win. The contest, which was sponsored by the East York health unit and the Leaside High School student council, required students to remain nonsmokers for one month. Thirty quitters and their buddies qualified for prizes donated by the Leaside business community.

Winners of the draw for the grand prize, a pair of mountain bikes donated by the student council, were April Marshall and Caroline Visentin. April told me that although she used to play sports regularly, she could not keep up the pace when she smoked, so she stopped playing. Within one month of becoming a nonsmoker again, April was able to rejoin the school soccer team.

The quit-and-win contest was just one event in a two-month smoking cessation program at Leaside High School. Other events included a nonsmoking week, classroom presentations and a skit entitled Seven Minutes, because every

cigarette takes seven minutes away from your life.

I hope that the other high schools across Ontario will follow Leaside's excellent example and encourage students to stop smoking or, better yet, never to start.

DERELICT MOTOR VEHICLE SITES

Mrs. Grier: In 1979, the Ministry of the Environment ended its responsibility for licensing, regulation and monitoring of derelict motor vehicle sites, leaving the responsibility to each municipality. Soon afterward, the then Ministry of Transportation and Communications announced that it would no longer regulate the appearance of auto wrecking operations. Municipalities now have complete responsibility for these sites. What municipalities do not have are the resources or the expertise to monitor and inspect such operations. Many of the smaller municipalities do not even have full-time bylaw inspectors. In addition, there is often confusion about when a derelict motor vehicle site, a municipal responsibility, becomes a salvage and scrap yard, which is still under provincial jurisdiction.

The Ministry of the Environment's abdication of its responsibilities for derelict motor vehicle sites is completely unacceptable, given the variety of environmental problems associated with these operations. Neighbours consider them eyesores and are worried about potential contamination of water sources from oil and old batteries.

Last year, I wrote to municipalities across the province to find out how widespread the problem was and to ask them how best to regulate auto wrecking yards. The response was overwhelmingly in favour of the Ministry of the Environment resuming responsibility. Municipalities complained about their inability to regulate these businesses and about how slow the ministry was to respond to their concerns.

I urge the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) to resume responsibility for derelict motor vehicle sites to ensure that adequate protection of the environment is provided and that legislation is uniform.

ASSISTANCE FOR THE DISABLED

Mrs. Marland: My statement today is, in fact, a very sad story. It is about the McConnell family. There are two daughters in this family: Maria, aged 21, and Theresa, aged 19. Both of these girls in this family were born with microcephaly, smaller heads. Both the girls have

epilepsy and progressive ataxia. Both these girls have been in wheelchairs for 10 years. They are able to wheel themselves around, but of course they need help with being lifted in and out of those wheelchairs. They obviously need help with their personal hygiene.

Their mother, Mrs. McConnell, has taken care of both these girls all their lives without any assistance from any government. The saddest part of all is that Mrs. McConnell has cancer. Mrs. McConnell has been trying for five years to get a residential setting for both of her daughters. Obviously, it is imperative that these girls stay together. They have been together all their lives. How sad it is when applications to organizations such as Participation House in Brantford or Participation House in Markham, tell them that Maria and Theresa are too low-functioning compared to other people in those residences and that they are too low a priority to be accepted.

If this Liberal government can look after normal kids in grades 1 and 2 across this province, surely it can look after the special needs of this family.

LITHUANIA

Mr. Fleet: Today is of special importance to the members of our Lithuanian community in Ontario. February 16, 1989, is the 71st anniversary of the restoration of independence in Lithuania following the First World War.

This anniversary is especially significant as only recently have the language, flag and anthem of the Lithuanian people received official recognition by the government in their homeland. In Toronto, St. Catharines and communities all across Ontario, flags will be raised to commemorate this day and to herald the advent of freedoms finally re-emerging in Lithuania itself.

All Ontarians are free to retain their cultural heritage and to share it with others. We encourage and celebrate the strengths of multiculturalism, as well as the exercise of many political and personal freedoms. Since the turn of the century, people who came from Lithuania have richly contributed to the development of our province and to our shared ideals of freedom.

Let us honour that commitment to freedom and the contribution of all Ontarians of Lithuanian heritage. I ask all members to acknowledge the community representatives with us today in the members' gallery: Joana Kuras, Herbert Stepaitis, Dainius Vaidila and Angelica Sungaila. Thank you very much for your contribution.

HANDGUN REPLICAS

Mr. Farnan: In today's Toronto Sun we read that Toronto's emergency task force was called out after a 14-year-old boy's replica gun was mistaken for the real thing. The ETF set up a command post outside a Pizza Hut restaurant. Upon arrest, they found the replica gun was modelled after a nine-millimetre automatic handgun.

"'You could have an ugly ending,' Peel Sergeant Doug Turner said. 'The youth thinks he's handing over the weapon; the police officer thinks it's real and then you've got your split-second timing.'"

Is it not time the government brought in legislation modelled on my private member's bill, Bill 145? Fifty-six different police commissions and police brotherhoods have passed resolutions supporting Bill 145, which demonstrates the seriousness with which police officers and commissioners consider this issue and the broadly based support for Bill 145. The government should not wait until we have another fatality.

COURT RULING

Mr. Jackson: I rise on a point of privilege. For many months now, the member for London North (Mrs. Cunningham) and I have been in touch with a group called Mothers on Trial, which is an advocacy support and lobby group for women dealing with support and custody issues within the court system. Oftentimes, members of the group bring to our attention issues of a personal nature arising from specific actions and motions now before the courts. These women are turning to members of this Legislature because, from personal experience, they see the need for judicial reform in the area of family law.

A leading member of the group is Ms. Christina Benson. On May 27, 1987, the Honourable G. Thomas Walsh, senior justice of the family law division, Supreme Court of Ontario, issued an order which tells Ms. Benson that she is "expressly prohibited from writing or contacting any party in respect of this action."

Mr. Speaker, this order purports to prevent Ms. Benson from contacting members of this Legislature, including me, about her troubles with the family law system. I am rising on a point of privilege to ask you whether this court order is of any force and effect in so far as it attempts to prohibit communication between Ms. Benson and members of this Legislature.

Beauchesne, in section 16 of the fifth edition, defines the privileges of this House as "rights which are 'absolutely necessary for the due execution of its powers.' They are enjoyed by individual members, because the House cannot perform its functions without unimpeded use of the services of its members"

You yourself, Mr. Speaker, in a ruling on June 10, 1986, at page 1297 of Hansard, explained privilege as follows:

"Parliamentary privilege relates to the rights and immunities that belong to Parliament, its members and others, which are essential for the operation of parliament. These rights and immunities allow the Legislature to meet and carry out its proper constitutional role, members to discharge their responsibilities to their constituents, and others properly involved in the parliamentary process to carry out their duties and responsibilities without obstruction or fear of prosecution."

I think it is clear that one of the most essential rights we have is the right to communicate freely with the public. Without the right to hear their grievances, or listen to their concerns, we simply cannot function as elected representatives of the public.

Ms. Benson has several legitimate grievances. Yesterday, we read about her as the woman in the Globe and Mail who lost custody of her child because she has gone to a shelter for battered women. Yet here she is being told: "You will be found guilty of contempt of court and you will go to jail if you so much as breathe a word of this to anyone—even to an elected MPP."

First, I remind you that the right to address grievances to this House is enshrined in our standing order 31. Yet this court order would even prevent Ms. Benson from signing or sending a petition to the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

In further support of my point of privilege, I would like to refer to several authorities which make it clear that the right of members to communicate with the public—and I refer to two-way communication—cannot be impeded.

Erskine May states on pages 167 and 168 of the 20th edition that "the special position of a person providing information to a member for the exercise of his parliamentary duties has been regarded by the courts as enjoying qualified privilege at law.... Administrative action has also been taken to preserve the liberty of the electorate in communicating with members of Parliament."

Looking in both Erskine May and Beauchesne, we can find at least four precedents which make it clear that the right to communicate

freely with MPs and MPPs cannot be breached, and that when it is breached, it gives rise to a question of privilege.

These previous rulings include the following: first, where British servicemen have an absolute right to communicate with their MPs, so long as they do not disclose state secrets; second, a government department cannot disclose to third parties the contents of a letter sent by an MP's constituent; third, in 1974 the wiretapping of a Canadian MP's office was determined to be a *prima facie* matter of privilege, but the MP never proceeded further with his complaint; and finally, the censorship of incoming mail and phone calls to MPs was raised as a matter of privilege in 1942, but was defended by the Prime Minister as necessary to wartime security.

I suggest that by attempting to prevent Ms. Benson from taking her case to members of this House, Mr. Justice Walsh has breached the privileges of all members, but especially those of us who have been providing her with advice and assistance.

I understand that standing order 19(d)(7) prevents any MPP from discussing an issue that is before the courts and "where it is shown to the satisfaction of the Speaker that further reference would create a real and substantial danger of prejudice to the proceeding."

This section, in my view, only reinforces my arguments. This standing order makes it clear that it is the Speaker and the Speaker alone who decides whether we can discuss specific legal issues in this chamber. Mr. Speaker, if Ms. Benson complains to me, you have the authority to decide whether I can talk about the issue in this House; but that power belongs to you, not anyone outside this chamber, be he a judge or anyone else.

It seems clear to me that it is a breach of privilege to tell MPPs that they are no longer allowed to hear from particular constituents. After all, representing the public is at the very heart of our role. I like to think of the Legislature as a court of last resort in Ontario, and if citizens cannot turn to us, where can they go? No outside party, not even the courts, can take this right away.

I refer finally to Wade and Phillips, in their text on constitutional law on page 124, for your consideration, Mr. Speaker. It says, "Parliament has always held the view that whatever matter arises concerning either House of Parliament ought to be discussed and adjudicated in that House and not elsewhere; and that the existence of a privilege depends upon it being declared by

the high court of Parliament to be part of the ancient law and custom of Parliament."

Finally, a member is obliged to rise on a point of privilege as soon as it arises. I regret that I did not learn of this court order until this morning, so this has been my first opportunity. Mr. Speaker, you must determine whether or not I have raised a *prima facie* case and, if you do so, sir, I am prepared to raise the appropriate motion.

Hon. Mr. Scott: I would like to respond briefly to the point. I think the members of our caucus accept the general proposition that has been stated at such length by the honourable member.

As you consider it, Mr. Speaker, I think it would be useful if you took into account the reasons for the order that the Honourable Mr. Justice Walsh has given, as I am sure you would want to do, before the ruling that you make is in fact made.

Mr. Speaker: I listened very carefully to the member for Burlington South and to the Attorney General. I certainly will take into consideration the suggestions made. I would like to ask the indulgence of the House while I study the point of privilege raised by the member for Burlington South. I will, at my first convenience, report my decision to the House.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY

ONTARIO TRAINING CORP.

Hon. Mr. Curling: Last spring, I announced the creation of the Ontario Training Corp. The OTC is Canada's first public corporation with a mandate to work with the private sector to increase workplace training.

Today, I wish to inform members of this House that the Ontario Training Corp. guidelines are now completed for its two investment funds, the training materials fund and the training technology fund. The corporation will now be accepting and processing proposals that will support the development and commercialization of new training materials and technologies for the Ontario workplace. There will be \$3.2 million available for the investment funds.

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The training materials fund invests in workplace training products, including manuals, interactive computer programs and instructional videos; for example, a basic chemistry course for mill and refinery workers in the mining industry.

The training technology fund invests in applications of emerging technologies for workplace training purposes. These new workplace

training products will be state of the art, using new technologies such as authoring software, videodisc and CD-ROM.

All proposals to the investment funds must be commercially viable and must be useful to a wide range of potential customers.

The investment funds will generate partnerships between the Ontario Training Corp. and private sector innovators that will bring new training materials and technologies into the marketplace. This will help Ontario's training industry to become a leader and will stimulate training within Ontario's workplaces.

As well, the corporation offers a skills bank that will provide an inventory of all existing training programs, materials and services in Ontario, and it is also encouraging new ways to train up-to-date trainers for the marketplace.

Through this and other initiatives, the OTC and this government will continue to build a strong training culture. When Ontario business and industry routinely invest in on-the-job training, we will see the results in a heightened productivity of Ontario's economy. Establishing a training culture will enable us to meet the labour market adjustment challenges posed by new technology, changing demographics and new global trading patterns.

I want to congratulate Sandra Birkenmayer, president of the Ontario Training Corp., and David Lewis, chairman of the board, on the release of these important guidelines. I also want to acknowledge the vital support of the labour movement for the efforts of the Ontario Training Corp.

The new investment funds and the OTC itself continue to be an outstanding example of partnership among government, business and labour. I look forward to communicating further OTC initiatives in the coming months.

RESPONSES

ONTARIO TRAINING CORP.

Mr. Farnan: We on this side of the House welcome any effort, no matter how small, that will improve our competitive edge. As we address the challenges of the future, I think we must all realize that the tools, the technologies and the methods that make industrialized nations competitive in the marketplace of the future are available to all nations and that what is going to make the difference in giving us a competitive edge in the world of tomorrow will be to be competitive in the quality of our trained and skilled personnel.

There have been some initiatives from this ministry that we can commend. I think the industrial training committees are an initiative we can commend. This particular initiative is, again, something we can commend and applaud. But when we look at the amount of dollars being invested in the initiative to develop the potential of the skills that will make us competitive in the world of the future, \$3.2 million is a paltry amount of money indeed. We have to be realistic. If we are to compete at the razor's edge of the competitive industrial world, \$3.2 million is a drop in the bucket and certainly will leave us far behind in the pack.

Nevertheless, it is a step in the right direction, a small, baby step but a step, and we have to commend the government on that. There must be real investment in this before we can make any meaningful progress. I hope the minister is fighting in cabinet for real funding for his area, because without that funding we are going to lose our place as a potential industrial leader.

We are trying the co-operative approach and we can commend the volunteer effort, but at some stage the minister has to look at the possibility and the potential of making apprenticeships obligatory. We have in place some formulas in which we have apprenticeship to journeymen and skilled tradesmen. That is fine, there should be these formulas in place; but if the private sector is not co-operating and training apprentices to keep us competitive, and if we continue to go to the United Kingdom and abroad to bring trained employees to work in the factories and the plants of Ontario, then it is clearly indicative that his ministry and this government is failing.

The reality of the matter, as I talk to the business leaders in Cambridge and in Ontario, is that they are saying to us, "We don't have skilled workers." It requires, clearly, leadership on the part of the government. There has to be something of an obligatory nature in the apprenticeship program. There has to be more flexibility to allow smaller firms to hire apprentices under rules that are not as stringent as those for firms of a larger nature.

Putting the minister's announcement in the House today in context, it is a very small but positive gesture towards skills development. We can accept that; but I feel the minister must stand here making that announcement with some embarrassment, because he knows as well as anybody in this House what the real need of the future industry of Ontario is. The real need of the industry is skilled labour.

With \$3.2 million in additional funds, the minister is not going to make an impact of any significance on the need we have for skilled labour. If he looks at the routes New Democrats have been pointing out in introducing some form of obligatory apprenticeship and in providing greater flexibility, then doing these other things helps it along.

In conclusion, I would add that there should be a commendation and recognition of those volunteers who are assisting his ministry in improving apprenticeship training as it stands at the moment.

Mr. Cousens: In responding to the statement of the Minister of Skills Development (Mr. Curling) today, I have to agree with one thing in his presentation: the desire to increase workplace training. Yet I wonder why it is that this very minister has not addressed some of the ways he could really go about doing something to increase the quality and quantity of people in the workplace to meet the needs of our growing industry in Ontario. I have four recommendations for the minister that come out of his presentation.

1. Increase the ratio of apprentices who can work with tradespeople. In the electrical industry, where there are three apprentices for one electrician, why does he not increase that to five apprentices to one electrician? Go through the different industries where there is a specific need for new trainees where he can then expand and build upon the apprenticeship training program. That is one thing the minister could be doing, working with the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara) and other ministries to try to make that happen.

2. I am surprised that his ministry has not done a detailed analysis and forecasting model of where the needs are in Ontario, so that the community colleges and other institutions of training are turning out the right kind of individual to be trained for the kind of needs that exist in different parts of industry. Do something in developing a model of the requirements for Ontario. He has not done that. That is not part of his agenda right now. I wish that would be part of his program.

3. Is it not time that his ministry established a closer liaison between community colleges, universities and educational institutions with labour and with industry so that there is a dialogue that goes on between both the ministry and industry?

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I know the York Technology Association has been very close to Seneca College, York University and the University of Toronto in trying to develop that working model where industry and educators are working more closely together. That is not happening in the minister's program anywhere; if it is, it is not something that is being directed, supported, financed, underwritten, guided and inspired by him or his ministry.

Finally, I do not think the Minister of Skills Development has even read the Premier's Council report, *Competing in the New Global Economy*. Recommendation 13 of the report has a comprehensive people strategy. It says, "The Premier's Council should work with appropriate areas of government to develop a comprehensive people strategy that would address vital education, training and labour market policy issues as an integral part of the council's next agenda."

I am convinced that this minister and this ministry are not aware of what is in the Premier's Council report, because it has come forward with some solid recommendations. What he is doing is just meddling and playing around with the system and not coming up with a comprehensive plan. The Premier's Council has said methods need to be found to increase "the amount and quality of training in industry through incentives or a regulatory framework."

It has said nothing about the kinds of things that he is innovating right now. What he is doing is viable and it is good, but why does he not get on to some of the recommendations in the Premier's Council report that really have something to do with the long-term needs of the province?

I venture to say that the Minister of Skills Development is not on the Premier's Council. He should be. He should be speaking to the Premier (Mr. Peterson) and telling him that he wants to take part in it, that he has something to offer, and if he sat around that table—

Hon. Mr. Curling: I am on the Premier's Council.

Mr. Cousens: Are you on it now?

Hon. Mr. Curling: I'm on it.

Mr. Cousens: You are not. I didn't see your name in the front. They missed your name. Mr. Speaker, they missed his name.

Hon. Mr. Curling: Read the book.

Mr. Cousens: Hey, I missed it. It's alphabetical. His name is first on the list. I apologize. The minister had better attend the meetings. It's time he started getting involved and understanding

what they're trying to say, because he is not practising what they're suggesting.

Recommendation 13 calls upon this minister to do something. I wish he would read the report. Recommendation 13 has an awful lot to do with what this minister is doing. I am convinced he has not begun to do the job that the Premier's Council wants him to do.

I will close with a slight apology. I am sorry I did not see his name at the top. I am proud that he is there, so he should start thinking about it and doing something about it.

ORAL QUESTIONS

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Mr. Kormos: I have a question for the Minister of Financial Institutions. I am referring, of course, to senior citizens. Seniors, even those with the best of driving records, are going to suffer substantial hikes in insurance rates. The report from the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board that was released on Monday makes note of that more than once.

The Premier (Mr. Peterson) says that the government might step in to help. Will the minister please tell seniors in the province how much of a buffer they will get when their rates skyrocket to \$923 from the really already high premium of \$776, an increase of almost 20 per cent?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I am not sure of the exact location of those numbers. I presume that is for Metropolitan Toronto seniors perhaps, I am not sure. But the honourable gentleman would want to quote for the benefit of seniors around the province that there are other areas outside of Metro in which there will be substantial decreases on the basis of the figures that were also released and that have been worked out by the board.

I can tell the honourable gentleman that he ought not to be so provocative in the way he addresses the issue. There is no question that there will be some adjustment required in the market, but in this particular situation I am advised that the effect on seniors across the province will be somewhere around one per cent. That being the case, it is not going to be what he is trying to make it seem, that for every senior in the province there is going to be a tremendously huge increase.

I think he owes it to the people to be particularly careful to indicate that across the province there will be decreases as well as a result of the territorial structure under the plan as it has been set out. That is important.

Mr. Kormos: That is fine. Let us talk about seniors in Scarborough, because they are the ones who, the board report indicates, are going to suffer hikes of almost 20 per cent. On behalf of those seniors—we will talk about the ones in urban centres—is the 19 per cent hike really fair? It is not fair for those seniors; it is not just; it is not reasonable. Why cannot those seniors who are going to suffer the 19 per cent increases be treated fairly and reasonably? Will the government order a phasing in? Will the government order a cap with respect to those seniors in large urban centres?

Hon. Mr. Elston: The member will want to know, as the seniors of the province will want to know, that there will be filings of rates coming about in the 30 days following the Monday introduction of this new rate structure. We will be looking at the rates as they are filed by the companies. One of the advantages that the people will have is that the board will be making available a comparative list of rates which are available through various companies.

I would think we would want to be very careful in following the logic which this honourable gentleman would like to foist upon the people of Ontario, by letting people infer from what he says that all seniors are going to have very high increases. That is not what is indicated. He would want to be quite clear that there are places where there will be decreases and I can tell the honourable gentleman that I am interested in looking at what happens when the rates are filed by the various companies.

The member should know that is happening and I think he should tell the people of the province that is happening. In addition, there will be comparative lists of rates among the companies so that all consumers, whether senior or otherwise, will be able to shop with some degree of certainty and understanding about the marketplace.

Mr. Kormos: What I can tell the members is that seniors do not consider fair either a premium of \$922—because that is what is proposed, albeit as the maximum for seniors in urban centres like Scarborough—or the existing premium of \$776, and that is what a 65-year-old driver with a 40-year clean driving record is paying and will pay.

In Regina, the very same driver will pay \$448, 51 per cent less. In Winnipeg, the very same driver will pay no more than \$510, 45 per cent less. In Vancouver, no more than \$658—

Mr. Speaker: Are you asking the minister if he agrees with those figures, or do you have a question?

Mr. Kormos: I have a question. The rates are anywhere from 30 to 51 per cent less for that very same driver in western provinces. When will the minister tell the seniors in the province the whole story: that fair, affordable auto insurance premiums are going to take place only when there is a public auto insurance plan in this province?

Hon. Mr. Elston: Again the honourable gentleman is being very provocative because, of course, there is a whole series of initiatives which this government has introduced and he has failed to recognize in speaking about the marketplace in Ontario; a series of items which include items like tort reform, the opportunities available through driver education, highway safety and other things which all add up to deal with the critical issue, whether we are under a public or private form of supply of auto insurance, and that is the loss costs which are accumulating as a result of driving risks which are aggravated by the number of cars and other things.

That gentleman would want to know that the people of the province are assured that we are taking every opportunity to effect a decrease in loss costs by examining ways in which those can be reduced. That is what we are doing, and they include a series of initiatives about which we have made announcements in this House and about which we will be making further announcements. I can tell the honourable gentleman that he will want to explain fully that those initiatives are being taken by a caring government in the province of Ontario.

Mr. Laughren: The headline in the Toronto Star says a great deal about this government's attitude.

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PROPERTY SPECULATION

Mr. Laughren: My question is to the Treasurer. The Treasurer knows that since his government came to power in 1985, the price of new homes in Metropolitan Toronto has increased by 146 per cent and the price of resale homes by 135 per cent. In more than a dozen communities in this province, the rate of increase has been more than 100 per cent.

Can the Treasurer please tell us what is so unreasonable about our proposal that Ontario impose a land speculation tax that would impose a 100 per cent capital gains tax on the gains for nonresidential homes and land sold in the first 12 months and 75 per cent capital gains tax on land and buildings that are sold in the second 12 months? What is so unreasonable about that proposal?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I do not find that unreasonable, but I would like to point out to the honourable member that the policies of this government have expanded the rate of the provision of housing in this municipality and elsewhere across the province at a tremendous rate.

At the same time, we have to recognize that people everywhere in the world and everywhere in Canada and everywhere in Ontario are attracted to this fine Metro area as a place to raise families and make a living, and we feel that the dislocation associated with the honourable member's proposal is not at this time balanced by the advantages that are so apparent to him.

I indicated yesterday that, as we come within two or three months of a budget, all sorts of alternatives dealing with the needs of the community are under review. The honourable member would be aware that, as usual, the recommendations he makes in this House as budget critic are always considered seriously.

Mr. Laughren: On Monday we raised in this House the question of the problem of inflation in the price of detached homes, on Tuesday we raised the question of the cost of apartments, and yesterday we brought to the Treasurer's attention, because he did not seem to understand, that this was a province-wide problem not restricted to Metro.

For two years now we have been trying to get the Treasurer to bring in this speculation tax and he has done absolutely nothing to deal with the question of speculation on land and homes. I ask the Treasurer, very simply, will he step aside and let someone else who will do something about land speculation fill the position of Treasurer?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The answer to the question, naturally, is no. I would sooner the Premier (Mr. Peterson) be here to answer on my behalf, but since he is not, I will have to do it myself.

The honourable member did initiate a series of questions earlier this week. Yesterday he indicated that Brantford, Ontario, I believe it was, a city I know very well, had the highest rate of increase of prices in the housing market; at least this was average increase.

I thought, so the record would not go uncorrected, that he should know the increase in one year—very high indeed—in the Toronto area was 25 per cent. In Sudbury, for reasons that are apparent, it was 18.3 per cent. In the Brantford region, the area which he thought was the highest, it was 24.1 per cent, which is not the highest.

In order for the record to be complete, the member should be aware that the increase in the average resale in Brantford was from \$87,717 in January 1988 to \$108,868 in December 1988. It is quite apparent that Brantford and Brant county and that marvellous part of Ontario are probably the most desirable places that could possibly be considered by any family—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. Laughren: I guess it is expecting too much for someone in the Treasurer's position or the Premier's position to understand what the escalation in the price of houses has done to ordinary people in Ontario, not just in Metro either.

The Treasurer has refused to do anything about the speculation on land, absolutely anything. He has said no every single time we have raised the question, despite the fact that in 1974, when a land speculation tax was imposed in Ontario, the escalation in the price of the sale of homes in Metro, for example, which the Treasurer likes to talk about, decreased from a 30 per cent rate to nine per cent in one year after the imposition of that land speculation tax.

I would like to ask the Treasurer, since he seems to have absolutely no solution to this problem, could he tell us why in the world, instead of sitting on no policies at all, he will not at least step aside, resign and let someone take that position who will do something about it?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The simplistic approach taken by the honourable member—

Mr. Laughren: It worked before.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: —has no role at all in a rational solution to a problem that is associated with the tremendous rate of growth of this community.

If the honourable member, as budget critic, had reviewed the statistics that are readily available to him, he would know that the rate of economic growth in Toronto has been greater than almost any other community in the western world.

Mr. Laughren: So what? Talk about Ontario.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: This surely is one of the apparent reasons for the kind of problem that he raises on a day-by-day basis.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I think the member would also know that the people in this province are better housed than in communities anywhere else in Canada. In fact, the number of people who have moved into their own homes in the last few

years has been at a rate faster than at any time in our history.

I think this is a matter that should concern the member when he tries to bring forward his alternatives in a fair and equitable way rather than on the basis that he apparently uses.

Mr. Laughren: What a wonderful bunch. I hope you all own your own homes now. You people must all have your own homes.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Burlington South would like to ask a question, if the member for Nickel Belt would allow it.

COURT RULING

Mr. Jackson: My question is to the Attorney General. The minister will be aware that in yesterday's Globe and Mail there was an article about Christina Benson, who is a victim of domestic violence. She has been living at Nellie's Hostel for Women on Broadview Avenue in Toronto.

The minister will also be aware that Ms. Benson has lost custody of her nine-year-old son Gabriel because Mr. Justice Coulter Osborne says that living at this shelter is "not in the child's best interest." Does the minister agree with this decision and, if not, what is he going to do about it?

Hon. Mr. Scott: First of all, I do not think my honourable friend has read the decision of Mr. Justice Osborne or he would not make the observation he did in the House or the observation he has made in this news release, which seems to be the focus of his attention, where he says that Christina Benson recently lost custody of her nine-year-old son because she is living at Nellie's.

As the honourable member will come to realize when he reads the decision, the trial judge in this protracted matrimonial dispute had to make a selection between what he regarded as a stable domestic environment and living in a hotel or hostel. He made no pejorative judgement about one or the other; he simply had to make a comparison between them in terms of the stability of the child. He also considered a raft of other factors that are traditionally taken into account when the interest of the child is at stake. Of course, he has made his order, which is subject to appeal in the normal fashion.

Mr. Jackson: The Attorney General will be aware that the matter I raised with the Speaker some 12 minutes ago had more to do with the censoring of this citizen's access to any member of this Legislature. That was Mr. Justice Walsh. The matters I am raising before the Attorney

General are matters with respect to Mr. Justice Osborne.

This matter does create a dangerous—

Mr. Black: You didn't listen, Cam.

Interjections.

Mr. Jackson: Mr. Speaker, it may be a constituent of the members opposite I am trying to raise the question about, and with their indulgence I would like to proceed.

Mr. Speaker: I appreciate the member's assistance.

Mr. Jackson: This does create somewhat of a dangerous precedent, given the fact that women who are experiencing domestic violence must choose between proceeding to a shelter and leaving that situation of domestic violence, or perhaps leaving their children behind and then proceeding to a safe hostel. It seems unfair that this judgement would create an image in the minds of those battered women in regard to the status of their children once they enter a shelter.

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Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. Jackson: Does the Attorney General not agree that this is a bad precedent for victims of wife assault and their children, and will he give his government's commitment that no woman will lose her child merely because she has been forced into an interval or transition home by an abusive spouse?

Hon. Mr. Scott: The honourable member knows that in these custody cases, and this case has raged vigorously for at least four years in the courts, the judge is obliged by law to consider solely the interests of the child. I do not believe that any honourable member present would want any other standard to be considered.

In making a determination of what is in the interests of the child, the judge has to consider, where it is appropriate, the stability of the environment, the location of the parents and a wide variety of other factors. He did that in this case, and anyone dissatisfied by the order can of course appeal his order and have it re-examined. But it would be wrong to say, as has been said elsewhere, that he deprived this mother of custody because she was living at Nellie's. He commented on a wide variety of factors.

It seems to me his observation about the stability of the proposed home on the one hand and Nellie's on the other would have been the same if Nellie's was the Royal York Hotel. He was speaking of finding a stable environment that would best serve the interests of the child. As everybody understands, that is what is to be

determined. The child is not regarded by the court as to be bounced from one side to the other to protect the interest of either parent.

Mr. Jackson: Twice before in this House I have raised with the Attorney General the issue of the attitude of judges. The Attorney General's response to me in the House is that the autonomy of judges makes it impossible to interfere in order to educate judges or to sensitize them to issues involving women who are victims of rape or domestic violence.

In this case, Justice Osborne seems to have said that Ms. Benson cannot obtain custody of her son until she moves into a stable, permanent shelter. Yet the type of roof over a woman's head has nothing to do with the kind of parent she will make.

If the Attorney General agrees that this case presents an attitudinal problem on the part of our judiciary, what steps can his government take to ensure that judges are more sensitive to the plight of abused women like Ms. Benson?

Hon. Mr. Scott: There are no doubt cases that reveal the attitudinal problem my friend has referred to, and I have had occasion to comment on them from time to time and to consider with him steps that can be taken. When this judgement is read, however, I do not think it reveals the attitudinal problem to which my friend refers. He is seeking a platform, but regrettably it is not to be found in this case. In this case—

Mr. Jackson: Both you and I are aware of this case, Ian. For two years you were women's advocate for your government and did nothing.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Scott: I do not know if the honourable member wants to get another supplementary in, or does he want me to respond?

Mr. Jackson: You are helping me by responding. I appreciate the additional response.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Scott: If my honourable friend will take just a moment—it will not take much longer—to read what the judge had to say, he might focus on the fact that the court quite properly does not consider this a dispute between parents which is to be resolved in the interest of one parent or the other but regards it, as I am sure all honourable members would, as a determination to be made on an interim basis for a stable environment for the child.

If the member looks at the five or six factors Mr. Justice Coulter Osborne referred to, I think the judgement will be deprived of the kind of inherent bias my learned friend seems to suggest

is found in it. It can be appealed. Legal aid facilities are available for that purpose and that is the appropriate forum for reviewing it. Regrettably, it cannot be made a platform for my friend's political purposes.

SECURITY IN PREMISES USED BY PUBLIC

Mr. Sterling: My question is to the Attorney General as well. Two days ago we debated Bill 149, the Trespass to Property Amendment Act. At that time I raised concerns with respect to a property owner's apparent diminished right to control the environment of his or her premises if this act was passed.

Earlier this week we learned of problems faced by merchants in the Scarborough Town Centre with respect to marauding gangs of youths and actions of intimidation and violence perpetrated on patrons and merchants by these youths; \$2.50 Tuesday now doubles as fight night, quite the entertainment bargain. How is Bill 149 going to assist merchants in dealing with these violent situations?

Hon. Mr. Scott: First of all, as the honourable member knows, the bill does not restrict in any significant way the capacity of mall owners or other property owners to control the use of their premises. They may post reasonable rules and they may give notices. What the bill essentially requires, or insists on, which is surely a protection that everybody would seek, is that you cannot be banned from a public place without some reason being given for that ban. That is all the bill does.

As the honourable member will know, of course, mall owners and others have recourse to the police in the normal way and can exercise all the rights of a landlord in protecting their property and maintaining order in connection with it.

Mr. Sterling: I would quite disagree with the minister's interpretation of his own bill. Let me outline the scenario that the minister has put forward in Bill 149, if it in fact passes in its present form.

A street-smart gang enters an establishment like the Scarborough mall. The merchant or the security guard must give gang members notice of what activities are not allowed. Suppose they violate this posted rule. Then the security guard must give them written notice of the violated rule and also advise the street-smart gang members of what their defence might be to this allegation. If the street-smart gang members object to the notice and continue to persist, they can do so, as long as they give notice of their defence to the

security guard or the particular owner, until the matter is resolved in the court.

Is this going to de-escalate the confrontation which is now taking place?

Hon. Mr. Scott: I think the answer to the honourable member is: "Return to Go. Do not collect \$100." If he reads the bill, the honourable member will see that is not the way it is designed to work. It is perfectly possible for a landlord who finds a citizen or members of a gang on the premises who are in the course of either committing some antisocial behaviour or breaching any reasonable posted rule of the establishment to give them notice, orally or in writing, that they will be required to leave. If the law is being broken the police can be summoned for that purpose.

The purpose, of course, of the written notice that is later required is to ensure that the citizen who is put out will have an opportunity to contest the grounds on which he is removed from the property.

Mr. Sterling: Of course, the Attorney General does not mention that the alleged trespasser can return the next day or the next hour with a notice that the conduct complained of did not occur, that in fact he did not breach a rule that was supposedly posted. This will therefore lead to a confrontation between the merchant or the security guard trying to maintain a level of public order and a street-smart gang which can, and in fact will know what this law says; it will lead to further confrontation.

In light of the fact that without this law as it is now proposed in this House there is a significant problem with regard to security control in large shopping malls, will the minister now consider withdrawing this ill-conceived bill at this time in order to allow there to be a semblance of public order in our shopping malls across Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Scott: I suggest to the honourable member that he take his lead from the honourable member for Leeds-Grenville (Mr. Runciman), whose moderate, thoughtful response to government bills is always of great help to the ministry. It seems to me that any minister is anxious that an intelligent, thoughtful criticism be made of his legislation in order to make it better, and we are grateful to have that.

But why does the honourable member for Carleton (Mr. Sterling), whose seat is safe at least for a couple of years, want to alarm everybody about completely imaginary concerns? It does no good whatever and in all probability nobody is paying attention to him.

[Later]

Hon. Mr. Scott: Mr. Speaker, can I rise to correct the record?

Mr. Speaker: A point of personal explanation, yes.

Hon. Mr. Scott: In the answer given to the member for Carleton (Mr. Sterling) today, I suggested that no one was listening to him. On reflection, I think that is a little ungenerous and I want to apologize to him. He is my critic and I listen to him attentively.

1430

CHLOROFLUOROCARBONS

Mrs. Grier: My question is for the Minister of the Environment who made a major announcement this morning to the media. I regret he did not see fit to make a statement in the House, but I am glad he has at least come so we can ask him some questions about it. His announcement that he was going to ban chlorofluorocarbons is a welcome one. It would have been nice to have been able to say congratulations for once, but I can do that now. At the same time, I want to ask some questions about the timing of that announcement.

The minister, I am sure, will recall that in December 1987 his own air resources branch recommended to the management committee of his ministry that Ontario take steps to reduce CFC emissions. When I raised the issue in this House in June, the minister was very defensive and gave me one of his usual nonanswers that indicated nothing was going to happen. I now find that just at the time I raised the issue, the ministry was considering an application by a company called Techni-Therm Inc. to build a new foam insulation plant in Cornwall that would use CFCs.

Mr. Speaker: Do you have a question?

Mrs. Grier: Can the minister explain this? Does he not feel it is contradictory to announce today the banning of CFCs, when last August he approved construction of a plant that came into operation in November and that is not going to comply with the legislation?

Mr. Speaker: Minister, you might have a brief response.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Everybody has to comply with the legislation. First of all, I should thank the member for her kindness in making a complimentary remark. I know she is always very fair in her assessment of any of the initiatives that are taken in this House. I

appreciate the fair and constructive criticism she provides.

The fact of the matter is no matter who is operating plants in Ontario, they must comply with the rules and regulations that have been set out, which will come under the umbrella of the amendments to the legislation.

I want to tell the member that what is happening out there in the industry at the present time is that people are literally scrambling to find alternatives: first, to find CFCs that have less potential for depleting the ozone; second, to find ways of recapturing and recycling them; and third, to find alternative products. In fact, they are seeing those kinds of changes, partly because of consumer demand, partly because of impending government regulation and partly, I think, just because of a large public concern out there that is being assisted by scientific knowledge being shared with the population of this country and other jurisdictions.

I expect that these companies, as they set up operations in Ontario, will modify those operations. They will of course have to modify them because they will have to meet the requirements of the regulations.

Mrs. Grier: The minister seems to have missed the point of my question. Knowing industry was seeking to modify its operations and knowing there are substitutes available to make foam insulation, why did his ministry in August of last year approve construction of a plant that is a joint venture by Domtar, which started to operate in November, which is using CFCs for which Domtar acknowledges it will not be able to find an alternative for another three or four years?

Does he not think it is a contradiction to work towards eliminating CFCs, while at the same time his ministry is approving plants that are using CFCs when they could find alternatives? He is trying to have it both ways.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: It is like, I guess, bringing an automobile on that must meet requirements. For instance, there may be new automobiles that come on each year. They are going to have to meet new requirements under regulations that change each year. As these companies come on stream, they are simply going to have to meet the regulations of Ontario.

I indicated clearly a timetable, that when there were substitute products that were available, for instance, we would convert to the other products because we want to ensure that everybody plays under the same rules. In fact, I think the deadlines we have set out have been very realistic and responsible and are certainly ambitious

deadlines. I expect jurisdictions right across this country will follow the leadership of Ontario in this regard.

What we did, as the member knows, and this has been our policy, was to consult widely with the industry, with environmental groups, with scientists and with technical people, to determine what would be the best possible mode of operation, the best possible program we could bring forward.

I think you will find that objective observers will see this as a significant step forward. We hope to build upon this through the regulations the enabling legislation will allow us to bring forward. Any new company, regardless of where it is or when it came on stream, will have to meet our regulations.

Mrs. Marland: My question is also for the Minister of the Environment. Today he announced this phasing-out of the use of chlorofluorocarbons, CFCs, and Halons over the next 10 years. The first phase of this program will be to ban the use of CFCs in aerosols and foam packaging by July 1 of this year.

I am concerned with the practical enforcement of this ban. It may be easy enough for consumers to identify food products that have CFCs contained in them because it is mandatory for food products to list their contents; however, there are many other products such as bug sprays, medicinal sprays and household cleaners that are not required to list their propellant contents. Does the ministry have a comprehensive list of all the CFC users and producers? If not, how will it possibly enforce this featherweight solution to this heavyweight problem?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I find it amusing, first of all, that the member would use that terminology in view of the fact that we have been the jurisdiction that has taken the first action in Canada. We are probably one of the leading jurisdictions in the world in this regard. It does not mean we will be the only one. There will be lots of others that will be on stream. We think there is going to be a good group of people that will get together from various countries to undertake the same action.

As to the details, I know we can get hung up on practicalities, but if I had got hung up on practicalities with other programs I have brought forward, of course, we would never have seen a program.

I think the member makes a legitimate comment when she says public education and knowledge are going to be essential components of this. I want to assure her we have a number of

these substances that we are aware of at the present time, and we will be adding to that list. By the deadline we have set that information will be available to people. The member makes, I think, a very legitimate comment when she says that kind of information has to be available to the manufacturers, the people in business and the public at large. I want to assure her that information will be available.

Mrs. Marland: The minister says he is not hung up about practicalities. He makes an announcement that he is going to ban something by July 1 and the practical reality is he does not know how he going to do it. How can he do it if he does not have a list of the products that have those contents? What is he going to do? Is he going to go into stores and pick up the cans and say, "Maybe this has it, but we don't know, so we'll ban it"? This is more than practicality; it is reality we are dealing with on this issue.

It certainly reads very well in the minister's announcement, but in fact, even on that issue alone, we are talking about a 100 per cent problem and an eight per cent solution. This is only eight per cent he is dealing with on this subject.

Mr. Speaker: Do you have a question?

Mrs. Marland: Yes, I do, Mr. Speaker. Since the minister is making this statement today, and I understand later on introducing the bill, I want to know if he can tell this House how he is going to enforce any of his statements, when obviously no real thought has gone into this announcement before today.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I have heard two versions of this now. One is that we did not move quickly enough and probably gave it too much thought. Here is another now, that we have not given it enough thought and we have moved too quickly or something. I cannot figure out exactly what it is, except to say that we did wide consultation with representatives of the environmental community who have shown leadership and interest in this subject. We consulted representatives of the industry widely, because they are the people who can tell us about a lot of those products.

Where you used to get resistance in years gone by, those people want to respond to consumer demand. They have to respond to regulation and legislation. They have to respond to the scientific knowledge that is brought forward. We will have such a list. A wide number of those products are known today and with further consultation we will expand the list.

I think the member will see it as a very practical, reasonable, aggressive, far-reaching—what is another word I can use?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Visionary.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I heard "visionary"—announcement today. I was glad the member was at the press conference today. I appreciated her interest and I appreciate the interest of the member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore (Mrs. Grier).

1440

ANNIVERSARY OF QUEEN ELIZABETH WAY

Mr. Dietsch: My question is to the Minister of Transportation. Recently, I met with John Sherk who had sent the minister a letter concerning suggestions for the commemorative event in honour of the 50th anniversary of the Queen Elizabeth Way, which as he knows will take place in June of this year.

I am aware there has been considerable dialogue with members of his ministry to consider such options as a re-creation of the original dedication ceremony, perhaps including such special arrangements as some of the original cars or other antique cars that could be used in such a celebration. Can the minister please provide me and the House with an update on what progress has been made with regard to the organization of such an event as this?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I thank the member for St. Catharines-Brock for his question. I particularly thank him for his interest and his sense of history with respect to this particular highway. As members would be aware, it is not simply another highway within our provincial network, but is the first major freeway in Ontario, on which many of our other roads, highways and interchanges, here and around the world, have been modelled. It really was the forerunner of the great network we have here in the province.

I appreciate the member's interest in bringing this to the House's attention, with this being the 50th anniversary, having had the King and Queen here in 1939 to open it. We have established a committee within our ministry and we are looking to see what we can do, without creating a traffic jam, to recognize and honour the 50th anniversary of this very important highway.

Mr. Dietsch: The minister will know it is exceptionally important to take into consideration all the expertise we have that surrounds this Legislature, in the people of the province. Will the minister tell this House whether he would invite participation from beyond this provincial government? For example, will local communities and businesses have an opportunity to contribute to this celebration?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I think it is a very interesting and very wise proposal the member is making. In most of the projects that we engage in across the province, given the nature of this ministry, we invite public participation, but generally of a somewhat different nature.

I offer him, to pass on to his local residents, the good people of the St. Catharines area, the opportunity. I think we should invite the school children at various levels. Certainly, the business community should be involved. I suggest some of the service clubs in the area might also wish to play a role. We would welcome that input and look forward to continued dialogue with the member.

PLANT CLOSURE

Mr. Mackenzie: I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Back in October 1986, the former president of Inglis, Robert Collins-Wright, told the Inglis workers that free trade posed a threat to their jobs. Testimony before a committee of this House investigating free trade clearly indicated that the appliance industry would be one of the first casualties. New Democrats told this government on many occasions that jobs would be lost and legislation was needed to protect workers and to retrain those workers. Indeed, we extracted a promise from him that he would respond.

That is a promise his government has broken. What will he do now for the better than 500 Inglis workers, so many of whom are older and difficult-to-place workers?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: A number of things are under way already. The member for Hamilton East refers, of course, to the announcement by the management of Inglis that a facility is going to close. It affects some 650 jobs in Toronto plus, as I understand it, 85 jobs in Cambridge and 25 jobs in Montmagny.

I want to tell my friend the member for Hamilton East that a number of things are going to be put into place: an employment adjustment committee comprising the company, and of course the trade union, along with both the provincial government and the federal government. In addition to that, I understand representatives of the United Steelworkers of America will be undertaking negotiations with the company for an appropriate package of benefits consistent with, and I would expect and hope above and beyond that called for in the Employment Standards Act to be given to the workers.

There has been some degree of emphasis put on the fact that the plant is 109 years old and is

manufacturing a product that is 30 years old in its design. I am not sure those are the relevant statistics. I think the relevant statistic is that there are some 700 workers here who need the assistance of this government, of their union and of the federal government. I hope the mechanisms we put in place are going to respond to the needs of those older workers, and in fact all the workers in the plant.

Mr. Mackenzie: I wonder if the minister has taken a little broader look at it. First, does he recognize that the jobs in production will be going to the US? Imports to Canada will increase. Local production will disappear. Both federal and provincial grants to this company failed to modernize the plant. A site selection committee, supposed to scout the province for a new site, was just another corporate ploy to appease the workers. Or is this another Good-year?

Whirlpool, which only had a 40 per cent interest in this plant three years ago, now has a 72 per cent interest, certainly not an arm's-length relationship. Is this the best this government can offer by way of an industrial and labour strategy to protect workers and jobs in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I do not have any information whatever on whether there was a committee looking for an alternative plant. Nor can I comment specifically: it would be too difficult in this particular case to analyse the impact of the free trade agreement.

I just want to say to my friend the member for Hamilton East and to other members of the House that I think this party and this government argued that issue as forcefully and as effectively as any party at any level did during the course of the last federal election. Certainly, we have a particular vulnerability, which our Premier (Mr. Peterson) talked about during the recent federal election campaign.

The honourable member's question in supplementary is, what is this government doing to deal with issues of labour adjustment? I have already pointed to some of the programs. I should mention again the Transitions program that my good friend and colleague the Minister of Skills Development (Mr. Curling) is managing, and the fact that within the employment adjustment branch we are organizing our affairs so we can intervene as early as possible to ensure that a worker who looks at the prospect of losing one job has at the earliest possible moment an opportunity to begin work in another job that pays equally well and provides the same sorts of benefits.

SALARIES OF SUSPENDED POLICE OFFICERS

Mr. Runciman: My question is for the Solicitor General. The minister will be aware of a story in today's Toronto Star that reports she will be introducing a new Ontario Police Act in April or May. The report suggests that the new act would make it harder for police officers who have been suspended from the force to receive full pay, that in fact their pay would be cut off three to six months after their suspension.

This means an officer who has a criminal charge laid against him could be without a job three to six months later, before having his day in court. This would put police officers at the mercy of the criminals they deal with. Will the minister assure the House that officers will not be docked pay before judgement is rendered on charges against them?

Hon. Mrs. Smith: I am happy to assure the member for Leeds-Grenville that the Police Act, which is being worked on, is being worked on very carefully and that no changes being introduced in the Police Act will take effect until it is thoroughly discussed within the community.

This report is full of information that is not properly based. I do not know exactly where this information came from, but I believe the member should not overreact to a newspaper article that has so many strange statements in it.

Mr. Runciman: I hope the Star reporters noted that.

In any event, the Solicitor General should be concerned with respect to the fact that she has not allayed the concerns among police officers right across this province. It is an indication of her insensitivity to the morale of police forces in this province. She does not hesitate to hit the rubber chicken circuit to present plaques, but when it comes to taking courageous stands in support of police against vocal pressure groups or the assaults of the Attorney General (Mr. Scott), she is nowhere to be seen. Will the Solicitor General assure the House today that her proposed Police Act will not cut off the salaries of suspended police officers before they have their day in court—a simple question—yes or no?

1450

Hon. Mrs. Smith: I would like to assure the member for Leeds-Grenville that the people who are meeting on the Police Act have my confidence, as indeed I have their confidence, whether as a result of rubber chicken or not. We are working together very closely and co-operatively, and I can assure both the member

and them that I do not mean to discuss publicly at this point what they are doing. They are working very closely in co-operation with each other and it would be very counterproductive for me to get into any discussion of what they are saying.

HAMILTON AIRPORT

Ms. Collins: My question is for the Minister of Transportation. The minister is quite aware of the severe congestion at Pearson International Airport in Toronto. He is also aware of the tremendous opportunity to divert some of this air traffic to Hamilton Airport in Mount Hope. Could the minister advise this House what he is doing to promote Hamilton Airport as an alternative to Pearson airport?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I thank the member for Wentworth East for the question and her continued interest in transportation issues, very specifically those that affect the Hamilton-Wentworth region. From previous responses in this House, the member will be aware that some two years ago we drew to the attention of the then federal Minister of Transport our growing concerns with respect to the congestion question. One of the alternatives that we indicated was the use of Mount Hope in Hamilton for offloading some of the traffic that is now in and out of Pearson airport.

The member would be aware that the Crombie commission is exploring issues with respect to offloading Pearson and making use of other airports. Toronto Island Airport and Buttonville have been mentioned, and certainly I expect that Mount Hope would figure prominently in the resolution of the situation that currently exists at Pearson.

Ms. Collins: One of the major impediments identified by airline and travel industry executives and by passengers is the lack of good ground transportation accessibility. The ministry has plans to build a new Highway 6 alignment between Highway 403 and Ancaster in Caledonia. Would the minister seriously consider accelerating the first link of this project, which is approximately six miles long, between Highway 403 and the airport?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I thank the member for her supplementary and for her interest. In fact, the member would be aware that only this week we met with the new regional chairman, Mr. Whynot, from Hamilton-Wentworth and others representing the area. The member was present for that meeting.

We have certainly indicated an interest in moving on with that and other projects. Of

course, we have to satisfy the environmental requirements for that very important link. We consider it very much a priority. It is a \$33-million project, and assuming we can get the other hurdles, the technical issues and the environmental issues, out of the way, we would certainly want to move ahead very quickly with the Highway 6 project the member has brought to our attention.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Miss Martel: I have a question for the Minister of Labour. The question concerns the public hearings on Bill 162. The minister will know that the response from the public on the hearings has been overwhelming and that we have some 612 groups that wish to have standing before the committee. Only half of those groups will be able to appear under the present schedule. I know that the minister is now receiving telegrams from labour unions concerning this. They are expressing grave concern with the situation.

The minister will also know that in the standing committee on resources development this afternoon the whole question of accommodating all of the groups that wish to appear will be discussed and a determination made. But I would like to ask the minister, what is his own personal view on the matter of accommodating everyone who wishes to appear before the committee on Bill 162?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I have always been amazed at how effectively the member for Sudbury East has come to understand some parts of the way in which this place operates. One of things she has not learned yet is that the scheduling of public hearings by a committee of this Legislature is a subject that is dealt with by the committee.

I understand that committee has, by way of protocol, established that it will hold public hearings for some six weeks during the recess, which we all hope will come very soon, and that it has a protocol for determining which groups will or will not appear before that committee.

I want to tell you, Mr. Speaker, and the members of that committee and the members of this House, that I do not feel it is appropriate, as a minister bringing a bill to the Legislature, to dictate my own preferences as to how that committee should undertake its business.

Mr. Mackenzie: Does the Minister of Labour not believe in an open government and that every citizen who may be affected by a piece of legislation which has been sent out for public

hearings should have a right to be heard at those hearings? For example, can he explain why miners from Elliot Lake will not be heard at that hearing, because they are considered to come under the rubric of a United Steelworkers of America local in Sudbury that has nothing to do with the serious problems we have at Elliot Lake?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Let me tell the member for Sudbury East and the member for Hamilton East that I believe in open government more than I believe in anything else. As a matter of fact, since the day I introduced that bill, I have been meeting, on a weekly basis, with groups all over this province to hear their views. In fact, I advised the committee that I would be bringing forward amendments to that bill based on what I had heard so far.

The committee of this Legislature determined its schedule and, in respect of the democratic process, I respect those decisions. It is interesting that two members of the New Democratic Party are raising those issues with me when the chairman of that committee—doing an excellent job, I want to tell members—is the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) who is also within the New Democratic Party.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Mr. Harris: Yesterday, the Premier (Mr. Peterson) and the Minister of Housing admitted their lack of policy direction in some areas, and I would suggest some of the moves they had made, had made the dream of ever owning a home with your own little piece of turf a dream that is gone for ever for middle-income Ontarians in Metropolitan Toronto. I congratulate the minister and the Premier for admitting failure, because that is the first step they must take if they are going to change the direction they are going in.

In light of that, I would ask the minister if she is prepared now to look at some of the solutions the government should have been looking at in the last three and a half years: things like reducing taxes on the cost of home construction instead of increasing them, reducing red tape instead of increasing it, increasing land made available instead of tightening it up, things like infrastructure—sewer, water, roads, transportation—the things we have been telling the government for three and a half years it should be doing; is she now willing, albeit three-and-a-half years late, to move in that direction?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: Every Ontarian, as the member knows, has a right to a decent, affordable place in which to live. That is one of

the things that animates this government and drives us in what we have been doing in housing. Some of the things the member has suggested as solutions are in fact things we are doing. This government has made a commitment that on our land we are going to make sure that people get homes they can afford to buy and homes they can afford to live in. I wish the honourable member would make some of this point to his federal colleagues about government land.

Mr. Cousens: What an answer. He asked you a question and you are just giving him a sidestep. You would be a better dancer than you are a minister, because you have not begun to understand what this man is asking. He is concerned about housing.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The member for Markham (Mr. Cousens), who used to be the Housing critic, responded to our initiatives on the land use policy, which would make sure that one quarter of the homes that are built in this province would be affordable, by saying—

Mr. Cousens: They are a failure.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I would like to stop the proceedings and remind the member for Markham that another member is speaking.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The first thing we have done is to make a commitment to use government land to increase the supply of affordable housing in this province. The second thing we have done is we have made it very clear to the municipalities and to the builders that we expect them to use land in more intelligent, creative and innovative ways to increase people's options in this province, because of course the people in this province have different lifestyles, different family sizes and different wishes.

The diversity of the people of the province must be accommodated by a diversity of housing types. In order to make that possible, municipalities must make it possible through their zoning and planning process. We have expected them to do exactly that—

1500

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Harris: Platitudes and condescending words do not build the kind of affordable homes that the people of Ontario are being denied by this government. They do not contribute one whit to that.

I have been saying for some time that this government is prepared to tax us out of house and home. Now it appears it has succeeded. Yesterday, the minister and the Premier admitted that they had. To add insult to injury, they now still

refuse, as a government, to abandon their plans to slap another \$8,000 to \$10,000 on the cost of affordable home ownership.

Instead of criticizing the federal government about its land policies, when the only piece of land the minister has made available for housing sold for \$4,000 a foot and pierced the ceiling for the most expensive piece of land in the whole history of this province—so I would not look at her own record—

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. Harris: Is the minister now willing to speak out against this regressive move and proposal to further escalate the price of housing by increasing lot levies?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: My commitment to making change in this province on behalf of the people who need housing is absolutely clear. I do not appreciate being called condescending. The member opposite might think about that.

It seems very clear to me that what we have done in this area is significant. I do not claim it is ever enough, but we have built partnerships with other groups in this society who share our commitment to affordable housing; with the Catholic archdiocese, with various municipalities in the province and with the Toronto Real Estate Board.

It seems impossible to build a partnership with the people opposite on this floor, who do not seem to be willing to understand that what has to happen is that we need to build in new ways and to use land in a more creative way. What we have said to municipalities is that we expect them to make sure that land is used in a more innovative fashion.

The biggest cost of housing right now, the biggest proportion of it, is the cost of land. What we can do to make sure that the cost of land is more reasonable through innovative use of land, and creative planning will make an enormous difference. We have said that to the partners who work with us, the federal government, the municipal governments, the private sector builders, the nonprofit builders and the communities out there that really care to address this problem.

If the member opposite were one of those, I would feel a little more sanguine about where we will go.

FALBY CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Mr. Allen: As the zeros flash, I will direct a question to the Minister of Community and Social Services.

A week ago, the minister will remember that the two-year-old Falby Children's Centre in Ajax

was closed and is now under investigation by his ministry subject to concerns around child abuse in that centre.

The minister will remember that the most unusual feature of this particular story was that two years ago when this very centre was being licensed, the operator, Mr. Kates, was at that time charged and convicted on charges of abuse with respect to a previous centre he had owned.

Will the minister explain how it is possible that Mr. Kates actually achieved licensing under those circumstances, and why it is, as his officials tell us, that there are now no procedures for screening applicants for day care licences and certainly no procedures for requiring a record of past convictions—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. There are two questions already asked.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: We were aware of the situation the honourable member describes, but I would remind him that the charge levelled against the operator was not upheld. He was not convicted. That lack of conviction was later appealed, and the final hearing on that appeal did not take place until after the licence was issued, not to that particular person but to his daughter. The licence was not given to him. It was given to his daughter separately and we had no grounds legally for refusing her, because she was not part of the original charge and even her father had not yet been legally convicted of the charge. I think that came about two months later. There was no way we could act on that information at that time.

PETITIONS

TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION

Mr. Black: I have a petition addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, which reads in part as follows:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"To amend the Teachers' Superannuation Act, 1983, in order that all teachers who retired prior to May 31, 1982, have their pensions recalculated on the best five years."

I have attached my name to this.

DRUG BENEFITS

Mr. Neumann: I have a petition signed by 374 individuals from the Brantford area, three of whom are present in the gallery. It reads as follows:

"To the Honourable Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"This is a petition to the provincial government and the Ministry of Community and Social Services to urge that the coverage of the drug benefit card issued to all parents on assistance be extended to include the cost of infant formula. We believe in and are committed to this effort to ensure that the nutritional needs of the children of Ontario will be met."

I have affixed my name to the petition.

OVERCROWDING IN SCHOOLS

Mr. Cousens: "To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Given that the present population of Brother André high school in Markham consists of 1,500 students and is at capacity; and

"That the projected enrolment for September 1990 is approximately 2,700, with the majority of increased enrolment at the grades 9 and 10 level; and

"That the potential overcrowding will have serious repercussions for students and teachers alike;

"The Ministry of Education, in consultation with the York Region Roman Catholic Separate School Board, move immediately to approve a new high school for occupancy in September 1991 in Milliken Mills that will include initially grades 9 and 10 and therefore alleviate potential intolerable conditions at Brother André high school."

So submitted and signed by myself.

NATUROPATHY

Mr. Elliot: I have two petitions I would like to present on behalf of my colleague the member for Peterborough (Mr. Adams). I realize the first is a lengthy petition, so I will not read it all. It concerns the recent report from the health care professions legislation review and the situation of naturopaths in the light of that review. The petition addresses questions of the regulation of naturopath standards and the regulation of such therapy as botanical medicine and acupuncture.

The petition is, as it should be, addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, and I have affixed my signature to it as well, on behalf of my colleague.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Mr. Elliot: The second petition reads:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"In light of the rapidly escalating ecological crisis, which is threatening the health and very survival of all life on earth, we urge you to greatly and immediately increase the efforts to educate the public on environmental issues;

"To promote clean, safe and renewable energy resources; and

"To increase the legislative and enforcement power of the Ontario Ministry of the Environment."

This petition has more than 50 signatures on it and I have affixed my signature to it as well.

EXTENDED CARE

Mr. Miclash: I have two petitions I would like to present on behalf of the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Fontaine). The first reads in part:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"I urge the Ontario government to reform the extended care system so that it is uniform, fair and equitable with regard to funding and regulation, and so that seniors in all extended care facilities receive the quality of care that they deserve."

This has been signed by 365 people and I have attached my name as well.

1510

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Mr. Miclash: The second petition reads:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We desire to express our disapproval of the issue of the exorbitant increase in insurance premiums proposed recently and demand that Premier Peterson honour his promise on this subject."

This petition has been signed by 976 people, and I have attached my name as well.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Bradley moved first reading of Bill 218, An Act to amend the Environmental Protection Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The bill deals with the following: that the making, use, transfer, display, transportation, storage and disposal of specified things containing an ozone-depleting substance and of specified things made using an ozone-depleting substance are prohibited.

The Lieutenant Governor in Council is authorized to make regulations respecting the use, transfer, display, transportation, storage, recycling and disposal of things containing or made using an ozone-depleting substance.

In addition, the Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations providing for exemptions from the requirements of the bill and regulations thereunder.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

House in committee of supply.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF HOUSING
(continued)

CRÉDITS, MINISTÈRE DU LOGEMENT
(suite)

Vote 1901, ministry administration program; item 1, main office:

The Deputy Chairman: When last we met, the minister was in the process of giving her introductory comments.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I would like to ask the permission of the House to move to the front row and to have staff present on the floor.

The Deputy Chairman: Is there unanimous consent that the minister be permitted to occupy the front row together with her staff?

Agreed to.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: Let me start by saying that I am very pleased to continue with the presentation of estimates which I began exactly a month ago today on January 16. I am hearing that some of my speeches are getting quite long, but this is the first time it has taken me a full month to get this far.

To refresh members' memories, I started off last month saying that I welcome the opportunity to discuss the goals and achievements of the ministry and I look forward to hearing members' ideas and suggestions. Let me briefly summarize my earlier comments.

Our comprehensive housing initiatives are a direct response to a pressing need in this province, a need that will not go away. Attracted by the promise of a healthy economic future, more than 110,000 people migrated to our province in 1987 alone. These people are not

only welcome; they are a necessary addition to an economic climate that is creating more than 100,000 new jobs every year.

That huge influx of families and individuals is having an enormous impact on the availability and, consequently, the affordability of housing. In large cities especially, the supply is stretched to the limit, leaving increasingly more families with fewer choices. It is our responsibility at the Ministry of Housing to draw together all the players who have the ability to stabilize the housing market. Our policies directly address the key issues to meet that goal.

In order to build houses, one needs land. Any plan to stabilize the housing market requires aggressive policies aimed at identifying and freeing up parcels of land appropriate for housing.

This government's Housing First policy addresses the need directly. Working with the Ministry of Government Services, we are releasing surplus government lands on a site-by-site basis. Already eight sites have been released: one in Mississauga, one in Stoney Creek, one in Guelph and five in Metropolitan Toronto.

Increasing the supply of housing is another challenge which is being met by our nonprofit housing programs, most notably by our Homes Now program, which was announced last fall. It provides \$2 billion to create 30,000 homes over the next three to five years. It will provide housing for 90,000 people. To put that in perspective, if all those new housing units were located in a single community, it would be a bustling new community the size of Oakville.

But it is not just the number of homes being built that makes a difference and that is significant. It is the kind of homes being built that will make a difference in our communities now and very far into the future. Up to 70 per cent of these 30,000 units are being built for moderate- and low-income families. That means that families and individuals who find it difficult to find accommodation that suits their needs at a price they can afford will have new choices.

Who will be living in these new communities? Let's take a moment to consider who the new tenants will be. In one of the new units recently completed there might be a single mother working to support her young family on just one income. Clearly, she needs more than a one-room basement apartment, but that may be all she can afford on her single income. Through the Homes Now program, she and her family will have a new home and the rent she pays will be

geared to her income, not to the size of the apartment.

Another tenant might be a pensioner living on a fixed income who needs help paying the bills. In the same new housing development there might be a young couple with two incomes who can afford to pay all the rent on their own. All these people and more will be making up the new communities which are being built across the province right now. They will be part of our new neighbourhoods and reflect society at large.

As I said earlier, Homes Now is our biggest housing project, but it is not our only one. We also have a nonprofit housing program aimed at those in society who often have a difficult time finding appropriate housing.

When people with disabilities go looking for housing, they often come up against a housing market that is designed to exclude them. To help change this, we have a program called Project 3000, which is designed to build rental housing for people who have special needs. This housing is specifically targeted at people who are homeless, people with disabilities, physical, developmental or psychiatric, and people who are fleeing from abusive home situations.

These programs are in addition to a federal-provincial program that is set to provide about 7,000 nonprofit units every year. I have already mentioned the serious problems that we are facing since the federal government has imposed financial caps on this program. I will speak in more detail about the inadequate federal role a little bit later today.

At the Ministry of Housing, we also see the need for long-term planning to build order and a sense of fairness into new and expanding communities. To this end, we announced, along with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, a draft policy statement on housing and land use last summer. When this statement is implemented in the spring, the policy will dramatically alter the way communities are planned. It calls for a full range of housing types, and at least one quarter of the homes that will be built in new communities must be affordable.

We are implementing this policy statement because we know that unless we plan for the future, our communities will not serve us well in the future. By planning now for affordable housing in every new community we are ensuring that our children will have the homes to strive for as they grow older and start their own young families. It also means the people who work in our communities, selling our cars, teaching our children, driving our buses, work-

ing in our stores, can afford to live in those communities.

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The policy statement also requires municipalities to adopt strategies to increase housing supply by making better use of our existing housing stock and our existing land. We know, for instance, that there are many opportunities for creative use of existing housing. We are talking about infill, conversion of underutilized commercial and industrial properties and the conversion of single-family homes to rental accommodation.

All these options offer the potential to create thousands of rental units across the province. These are units that can be created using our existing infrastructure, our roads and sewers which are already there. We can make better use of them by intensifying the residential use around that infrastructure which already exists.

The draft policy statement reflects our commitment to work closely with municipalities to streamline the planning process and reduce the time it takes to approve planning and development applications. We are doing this because we know that in the development business time is money and we are doing it because there is a need for more housing quickly in this province and we want to be sure we are doing our part to speed up the process and to get more homes built.

We are now in the process of consulting with municipalities and interested groups. Our goal is to implement the policy this spring. Speaking of provincial and municipal co-operation, I am delighted that our efforts have secured joint agreements with two municipalities this year. These agreements with Ottawa and with Peterborough represent our mutual commitment to work together for broadly affordable housing.

While similar agreements are being negotiated with other municipalities, I want to stress that our role as a partner is not limited to municipalities. One of the highlights of this year was the agreement between my ministry and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto to provide broadly affordable housing on church lands. His Eminence Gerald Emmett, Cardinal Carter, and I signed the agreement just before Christmas, marking the first such agreement by the province and a major religious denomination.

The agreement will result in the speedy creation of more than 800 housing units on church lands identified by the archdiocese as suitable for housing. In addition, under our nonprofit programs we will set aside a reserve allocation of units for the archdiocese. We are

confident that the archdiocese will be a major contributor to the supply of nonprofit housing in the greater Toronto area.

I am particularly pleased about this agreement, because it illustrates a point that we have been making for some time, that providing adequate, broadly affordable housing is not only the responsibility of governments, but the responsibility of everyone in the community. Partnerships like this one are essential if we are to make progress in meeting the housing challenge.

There are already today more than 50,000 nonprofit housing units in Ontario sponsored by hundreds of nonprofit groups, municipal nonprofit corporations and housing co-operatives. In the last year alone, we have given approval to almost 300 sponsors across Ontario to create some 14,000 homes, and people have moved into some 4,000 new homes. Over the next few years, a total of 55,000 new, affordable, nonprofit units will come on stream, which brings me to the next area I want to discuss.

As a ministry, we do not only concern ourselves with producing housing; our commitment is also to the people who already live in nonprofit housing and in the Ontario Housing Corp. buildings we own. We work with and for the tenants themselves to help improve the quality of their lives. We are responsible for thousands of projects across Ontario and consider the tens of thousands of tenants who live in them a high priority.

Ontario Housing Corp. owns and manages 84,000 housing units which serve 250,000 people all over the province. All of the units that make up Ontario Housing Corp.'s portfolio are rented on a geared-to-income basis. In addition, the OHC is responsible for 13,000 rent supplement units which are administered through agreements with private sector landlords. We take the needs of our tenants very seriously and we emphasize our role in providing leadership for other landlords in the province.

We have been active in establishing an effective landlord-tenant relations program in our own public housing. We have also implemented a race relations policy to foster greater harmony and co-operation in the tenant community. Already, the Metro Toronto Housing Authority, which is responsible for about one third of the Ontario Housing Corp. portfolio, has hired its own race relations director and established a premises harassment policy to protect tenants from any form of harassment. We also have an enriched university bursary program, in

which we provide for the children of OHC tenants.

Through a partnership with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. and the Metropolitan Toronto Housing Co., we help senior citizens to locate affordable housing more quickly through a seniors' housing registry. This registry offers a one-stop approach to finding permanent and affordable rental housing in the Metro Toronto area.

For many people, the surest form of tenant protection is entering into social housing. Previously, this entry was exclusively available to senior citizens and families. That is no longer the case. Last year, I made the decision to end virtually all restrictions on applications for subsidized housing by announcing that people would now be housed on the basis of need, and on the basis of need alone.

Metro Toronto is the home to OHC's largest member agency, the Metro Toronto Housing Authority. The members may remember that this year I appointed Jean Augustine as the new chairman of MTHA. She is a very capable individual with a deep commitment to the ministry's priorities for public housing in Metro and an enormously strong and deep record of social activism on behalf of people who need help. I have every confidence that she will build on the very solid foundations which we have laid.

Being a good landlord to our own tenants is only one of the ways that this ministry strives to provide protection for the huge proportion of tenants who rent accommodation in this province.

Je pense qu'un des éléments les plus cruciaux pour la protection des locataires est un système qui protège à la fois les intérêts des propriétaires et des locataires, et qui offre une protection particulière à ceux qui ne peuvent pas se défendre seuls.

Depuis 1985, le gouvernement a procédé à une révision, tout aussi vaste que détaillée, des lois sur la protection des locataires en Ontario. Ceci a été rendu possible grâce à la pleine participation des locataires et des propriétaires.

M. le Président, permettez-moi de faire mention des améliorations que nous avons apportées dans ce domaine depuis 1985.

The measures that we have brought in to improve the situation of tenants in the province include: measures to ensure that all tenants in Ontario can be charged only one rent increase each year; measures to ensure that all tenants in all private rental units are protected by rent review; the creation of a computerized rent

registry to ensure that tenants are not charged illegal rents; the creation of a residential rental standards board to ensure that tenants throughout Ontario receive proper maintenance of their rental units; legislation which outlaws the charging of key money to ensure tenants are not the victims of this unscrupulous practice; changes to the Landlord and Tenant Act to extend protection to include roomers, boarders and lodgers; the creation and recent revision of the Rental Housing Protection Act to protect existing rental housing units, and measures to ensure that tenants are not victimized by the operators of illegal suite hotels.

I want to make clear to members that none of these measures was in place prior to this government's taking office. We promised to clean up the haphazard and piecemeal approach to tenant protection that we inherited, and we have done just that. The Residential Rent Regulation Act, passed in December 1986, created a new system of rent review which contained many of these fundamental protections for tenants. For the first time, tenants living in buildings built after 1975 received full protection under rent review. We required the landlords of these units, for the very first time, to apply to rent review to justify any rent increases that exceeded the guideline.

Putting this new system in place has been an enormous task, and it continues to tax my ministry's resources to the limit. The addition of so many buildings to the rent review process created a large backlog. Indeed, almost 60 per cent of the current backlog of some 16,000 applications relates to this sudden increase in eligibility for protection. Yes, it is taking time to resolve these applications, but we believe that is preferable to leaving thousands of tenants unprotected and subject to a rent increase of any amount every month of the year.

Regarding high rent increases, it is true rent increases have been granted to date, applying the rent review legislation, that are averaging about 11.3 per cent. But this should be balanced against the fact that rent rebates granted to tenants by rent review average about 14.3 per cent. Fully 78 per cent of the tenants in Ontario are receiving a rent increase at or below the guideline; a guideline that is decreased for the second year in a row.

For those who go to rent review, we have established a system far superior and far fairer to tenants than anything in the past. For the first time, tenants are being given sufficient time and direction to assist them in fully understanding the landlord's application and documentation. They

have a full opportunity to dispute the proposed increase and to appeal any decision to an independent hearings board.

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In addition, we continue to register the rents of private rental units in Ontario. To date, more than 500,000 units have been registered and the results are available through our computerized rent registry. Tenants are able to find out through their local rent review office the maximum rent which applies to registered units.

Another crucial feature of our rent review legislation was the creation of the Residential Rental Standards Board. This board has been established to ensure that tenants throughout Ontario receive proper maintenance of their rental units. Failure by landlords to meet proper maintenance standards can result in a suspension or forfeiture of rent increases.

Another first for Ontario in tenant protection has been our ban on the practice of charging key money, which has long victimized tenants in Ontario. Using the legislation, we have established an active investigation unit and a total of more than 200 charges are pending before the courts. Already we have obtained numerous convictions which have saved prospective tenants literally thousands of dollars.

Last month I introduced legislation to make the Rental Housing Protection Act permanent, with tough new measures to further protect rental stock and tenants' rights. This legislation has in the past been most effective in reducing the unwarranted loss of rental housing by requiring municipal approval of the demolition or conversion of such housing.

As members know, the act was originally intended as an interim measure. After wide consultation and analysis, it was clear that the market conditions which prompted the government to implement the act in the first place had not changed to a significant degree. That is why we have added some new measures and kept many of the old to ensure effective protection for three million tenants in Ontario.

Our record on tenant protection shows that this government recognizes and is responsive to the housing needs of those of our citizens who rent accommodation. We have come a long way towards establishing some of the most comprehensive tenant legislation in the nation.

As a government, we are also concerned with those citizens who dream of owning their own homes. To help people to save for their first home, the Ontario home ownership savings plan was introduced this year. Announced in the April

budget, the plan will provide an annual tax credit of up to \$500 for individuals and \$1,000 for families, depending on household income. Benefits for this plan are expected to average \$50 million per year and to assist an estimated 150,000 families and individuals who are planning to buy their own homes.

Let me move now to the building industry and our efforts this year to help it become more productive and efficient. As members know, our building industry is the largest and possibly most important industry in the province. It leads in terms of economic impact, employment creation and the multiplier effect associated with capital investment. As the minister responsible for regulating this industry, I am concerned that the building system in Ontario supports the construction of all kinds of housing, including broadly affordable housing, and to this end we have been actively engaged in several initiatives.

Two years ago we launched a comprehensive program of regulatory reform designed to improve the regulatory environment and industry efficiency in three basic ways. First, our move was to begin consolidating and streamlining the hundreds of statutes and regulations that govern the building industry. Draft legislation will soon be ready to correct the major portion of these deficiencies and the remainder of the necessary amendments will be addressed soon after.

The second thrust of the regulatory reform program is to ensure that the regulations we do have make good sense in technical, economic and social terms. To accomplish this ambitious objective, we are developing a comprehensive code assessment framework to evaluate new and existing building requirements on a cost/risk-benefit basis. This analytical framework, which will be unique in the world, is nearing completion and will be available this spring for use in all of Canada and for future application by the National Research Council in Ottawa.

The third regulatory reform is to make extensive changes in the current elaborate regulatory network. We are preparing amendments to the Building Code Act to provide greater flexibility in the administrative procedures through which our regulations are enforced. By working in partnership with communities, municipalities, other levels of government and the private sector, we can begin to implement actions and initiatives that will respond to the housing needs of our fellow citizens.

This partnership-based style of housing delivery requires strong mutual trust. It creates new demands and challenges to all of us in govern-

ment. We must be prepared to move into a more facilitating and advocating role, empowering our partners and helping them to remove the obstacles from their paths. That is what we have been doing.

A major priority of my ministry this year has been to work towards changing the environment in which housing has traditionally been developed. Our objective has been to involve, influence and persuade other provincial ministries, municipalities, community groups and the private sector to use their energy and resources to remove impediments and enhance opportunities for increasing the supply of broadly affordable housing.

Aside from the new partnerships that have been forged, we have also intervened directly with municipalities when we felt a worthwhile housing project was in danger of unnecessary delay or termination. Since April 1988 we have made over 80 interventions in support of nonprofit housing projects. Our form of intervention has ranged from the provision of expert witnesses to letters of support and council appearances. Let me give just one example.

In September, a housing project in Richmond Hill that would provide 350 affordable housing units—175 for families, 85 for singles and 90 for seniors—was turned down by city council despite my letter of support to the mayor. At the Ontario Municipal Board hearing in October, ministry staff gave evidence regarding our housing policy statement, the need for broadly affordable housing in Richmond Hill and the ministry's support of the project. The OMB decided in favour of the housing project. That is but one example of initiatives that we have taken to create an atmosphere in this province that supports our goals. We have not entirely achieved that yet.

Far too often, when people try to develop housing in communities or intensify existing neighbourhoods, there exists a curious reaction known by many as NIMBY, not in my backyard. I call it curious because often these are the same people who publicly lament the high cost of housing and the low vacancy rates. They demand solutions, but not in their backyards. What is of more concern is that NIMBY often extends to entire municipalities.

There seem to be some municipalities in this province that feel they have the right to exclude whole groups of people who cannot afford the cost of the housing that they wish to see built. I want to state very clearly that no municipality in this province has that right. We can go on and on

talking about housing and the need for solutions, but until everyone in this province assumes the responsibility to find and implement solutions, we cannot resolve the problem. That is the major challenge we face in the future.

In order to meet it, we must get municipalities to accept their responsibilities. We must impart a sense of responsibility to private industry, business corporations, community-based organizations, individual home and property owners, landlords and tenants. I think we have made considerable progress this year with all these groups.

There is one other major player we have not as yet managed to budge, and that is the federal government. While the decision to make federal land available for housing at the Downsview airport site is encouraging, we are still waiting to learn whether the housing that is built there will be priced to meet the need.

I am deeply disappointed that the federal government decided to sell a large block of post office land in Mississauga without receiving a commitment to a single affordable unit. In the midst of an affordable housing shortage, the last thing the government of Canada should be doing is simply selling land to the highest bidder.

The level of federal cost-sharing in social housing has not kept pace with the need. We will be developing 55,000 social housing units over the next three to five years in Ontario, and the federal government's approximate contribution will cover about a fifth of the total cost.

At no time in Ontario's history has the federal government played such a limited role in the provision of social housing. We need the federal government to be a full partner if we are to meet our long-term housing roles. I will be meeting with the new federal minister responsible for housing shortly to discuss these outstanding issues and I am hopeful that we can come to an understanding of their crucial importance and find solutions.

The time for action has arrived and the need is critical. It is my sincere hope that a stronger federal government commitment to Ontario's housing problems will soon be forthcoming. The citizens of Ontario who need affordable housing are Canadians too. They have a right to expect leadership for all their governments, municipal, provincial and federal.

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In closing, let me stress that this government is proud of its achievements in taking control of housing issues and in getting results. As our programs and policies gain momentum this year,

those achievements will continue to expand. As I said at the opening, I welcome this opportunity to discuss the performance of my ministry. The key to success in meeting the housing challenge in Ontario is to get everyone involved. We need the collective and co-operative effort of everyone.

It is in this spirit of co-operation and mutual commitment that I approach the debate.

Mr. Harris: I believe the father of the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breagh) is ill. I think he got word this morning.

Mr. Charlton: The member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) is correct. The member for Oshawa has been unavoidably taken away from us as a result of an illness of his father. I believe there was an agreement to stand down his opening statement and allow the member for Nipissing to proceed.

Mr. Harris: I was a little late myself and wanted to make sure that somebody spoke on behalf of the member for Oshawa and explain that he will be here, I believe, next week. Obviously, we would accommodate the New Democratic Party in any way, and the member for Oshawa when he comes back, and we extend our best wishes to his father and to his family.

I do want to say a few words before we get into the votes themselves. I hope over the period of the next few weeks there will be a good in-depth look at how this ministry operates and some of the many questions and concerns that we have about how it operates or does not operate.

I will be, over that period of time, looking in a very serious way and seeking answers to a number of questions, particularly on whether we are getting value for money. That is one of the key reasons this estimates process is so important. This is a government that appears to be throwing a fair bit of money, admittedly, at problems. I hear answer after answer in this House such as, "We've increased spending in health care this many billions and we've put this much money into housing and we've put this much money into other areas."

We understand that. This government is spending a lot of money, double the rate of inflation since it took office. It is the only government in Canada to do that over the past three or four years. Throwing money is obviously not solving the problem because the housing situation is much worse today than it was three and a half years ago. The affordable housing problem is dramatically worse. The availability of apartment accommodation is dramatically worse. The cost of apartment accommodation is dramatically worse. The supply problem, of

course, which is the key question, is dramatically worse.

The same is true in health care. Nobody believes the health care system is as good today as it was three and a half years ago, after throwing all this money at it. So we really must, in this estimates process, take a look at whether we are getting value for money. Are the programs being delivered efficiently?

We have questions when we see administration increasing 40 per cent, 50 per cent and 80 per cent in some ministries, and the cost of the rent review system going from \$4 million to \$40 million. The cost of running this program is up 10 times and yet not a landlord, not a tenant, not anybody I know in the province believes that the system is working. Whether they believed it worked before or not, they do not believe it is working as well today as it was a number of years ago.

I think this estimates process is an important one and I look forward to some dialogue with the minister in a number of specific areas over the next number of days that we have to look at this.

I want to make some general comments, though, before we get into the specifics and say that I am pleased that we finally have this opportunity. I appreciate that it has been a busy government agenda, although nobody knows whether it has any direction or whether the priorities are right. For some reason or other, we have not been able to get to these estimates for a while. I do not blame the minister for that. I am sure she has been ready, willing and able and available for a good period of time. Perhaps collectively we can blame the House leaders, whoever those individuals are.

Mr. Reycraft: As long as it's not the whips.

Mr. Harris: Maybe the whips, too. The government whip is here today.

However, we are involved in them right now. So I welcome the opportunity to discuss the housing situation in Ontario and to outline on behalf of the Progressive Conservative caucus and our party some of our concerns with the record of this Liberal government and the plans not only of this minister but of this Premier (Mr. Peterson) and Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) and this government which we think are impacting so negatively on solving some of the housing problems.

I believe the minister referred to the three crucial areas of her ministry, which I think she used as part of the framework of her remarks, particularly last January. One of the three areas for discussion is housing supply.

I said today in the House—and the minister took exception—that I felt she used a condescending attitude towards the House. Continually, when we have asked specific questions on issues which we think dramatically affect supply, she has come back with answers as if we did not understand that supply was the problem. Of course supply is the problem. Of course, when there is a limited supply the price goes up. That is standard, straightforward economics as I understand it.

In response to a specific question about lot levies, if I hear a three-minute tirade that, "The member doesn't seem to understand that supply is the problem," and I get the same answer time after time after time, I feel as if I am being condescended to by the minister. I do not need that lecture. I am not here to get that.

I have asked many specific questions about infrastructure, about not one major new artery being built in and around to provide greater access, about the problems of transportation, whether it be roads, buses, subways or rapid transit. Nothing has moved in that area in the past three and a half years. There is the odd study, the odd plan that says we are going to have to do something. It is the same with sewers and water; the same with speeding up the approval process.

I have asked questions about why a sales tax, when housing is, as the minister calls it, a top priority. I would say there is none that ranks higher right now. I think health ranks with it; I think a number rank with it. I am not saying there are not other concerns. This government is a disaster in so many areas there are other concerns, but housing surely ranks up there with the top of them.

Why sales tax? Why is that an area the Treasurer feels should be taxed? Why should he specifically place taxes on those areas that were previously exempt—like concrete, asphalt, mortar, those things that went into the cost of home building—at a time when the cost of housing is a severe problem?

I have asked those questions. I have asked about the new proposal for a lot levy tax and the minister comes back and says, "That money will be used to provide some of the infrastructure, the things you've been talking about." I understand that. In this case, it is schools. I think that is a silly way to pay for schools. I do not think the new home buyers should finance schools all by themselves. I do not think that is where the money should come from. I think education is a top priority as well and should be financed from as broadly based a source of funds as possible,

not isolating one problem area that is a severe problem, the housing affordability.

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When I have asked those questions, I got the three-minute answer that: "The House does not seem to understand. The leader of the official opposition does not understand. The Housing critic for the New Democratic Party and the Housing critic for the Conservative Party do not seem to understand. The problem is supply." I agree. I do not need to be told the problem is supply. It is why I keep asking questions. How are we going to increase supply?

I know that the home builders across this province—and editorial after editorial—have come forward with concrete reasons why this government is increasing the problem of lack of supply in a number of areas where I thought it could move in directions that would help solve the problem.

There are three areas for discussion. The key one is supply, I understand that; two, the minister talked about protection for renters, and three, about the partnership with the municipalities and the building industry. We do not disagree with any of the three priorities. We do not disagree with that.

I think most people, most members of this Legislature, run for public office to try to make their communities, this province and, indeed, this country, better places. I do not know any I have run into in my eight years where somebody ran specifically to make things worse. I do not know that they ran out of a tremendous desire to be able to come into this chamber in question period and see if they could trick and embarrass people. That is not why we run. We run because we want to and think we can make a contribution and make our communities a better place to live; to improve the situation and leave, in my case, for my four-year-old son, and in the minister's case for her children and for children of her friends, a better place, an opportunity. That is why we are here.

We legitimately raise questions and raise concerns about the directions the government is going in if we disagree. I believe we are entitled to answers. The minister in response to a question indicated today that she thought that we did not want to be partners with her in solving these problems. She talked of the great co-operation that she is receiving from others, the municipalities and the building industry. I am going to refer to that. Perhaps when she hears the response that they are giving, she will understand that perhaps they are being treated the same way

we are and that is why she has no partners, or very few willing to work with her in a co-operative way.

She is not alone in this; her cabinet colleagues play a significant role. The Treasurer plays a significant role, and the support this cabinet, this government and this caucus are willing to give to the minister is very suspect.

The minister has spoken at length in January and today about her accomplishments in the Ministry of Housing in light of those three priorities that she mentioned: housing supply, protection for renters and partnership with the municipalities and the building industry. I want to make a brief comment on those.

The minister said, and I quote, "On the supply side, we have made significant inroads." Is that why house prices are going up \$20,000, \$30,000, \$40,000 and \$50,000 each day? I do not think anybody believes significant inroads have been made.

There have been a lot of announcements. There has been a regular stream of announcements that have been made with great fanfare concerning ambitious commitments to build social housing projects. These are then followed a few months later by another press release, many times under a new and catchy name announcing exactly the same project once again. We have seen examples where it came out a second time and was scaled down—I do not know how the government thought it would get away with reannouncing something that was less than it had committed before—or it was going to be delayed. That is the type of announcement we have heard.

That part of housing, which the government is virtually directly responsible for and pays for, is only a very small part of the picture in regard to housing supply.

I want it clearly understood that I applaud the work of the community groups. I applaud the work of the church groups across this province for taking the initiative in coming forward and establishing nonprofit housing. I even applaud the ministry for its work in encouraging and facilitating this kind of initiative.

I am proud of the number of churches which have been actively involved in supplying housing in my home town of North Bay. We have St. John's Anglican Church which has recently completed a nonprofit housing project attached to the church. It revitalized the church at the same time on Main Street in North Bay. Emmanuel United Church brought 60 or 70 units—I do not have the figure off the top of my head—that we

opened a couple of years ago, right on their property in conjunction with their new church. I applauded and I encouraged others in my community to say that this was worth while, that this was a way they could contribute.

I do not mind saying that I have been critical of some churches—not all, but some individuals in some churches of practically every denomination—that have felt that their duty was to lobby government to do everything. I am one of those who said, “I understand a lobby on behalf of causes that you may believe in, but you know, if you spent half as much time lobbying and got involved in helping solve the problems, I think you would go a long way.”

So I applaud those groups in North Bay in my riding which have been involved in housing. I applaud those who have come forward and responded to the minister’s challenge that we all must do more. I believe that is important, but that there is a whole other side to this. This excludes virtually completely the private sector from the affordable housing field. They do not want to be excluded. They say: “We can contribute. We would like to be part of the solution.”

What about the fact that there are no, absolutely no affordable homes available anywhere in the Metropolitan Toronto area? That is a supply problem. The minister says she is proud of the increasing supply. I do not think anybody believes that the supply of affordable housing has increased today. I do not think they believe that. So there is a supply problem.

What about the fact that the vacancy rate in almost every major centre in Ontario is effectively a zero vacancy rate? It is worse in Toronto, we understand—one or two per cent. I guess it is as high as two per cent in some areas. London appears to be one of the few centres that has a vacancy rate even close to what is generally regarded as a healthy level.

Mr. Reycraft: A month’s free rent.

Mr. Harris: I am sorry. The government whip says what?

Mr. Reycraft: A month’s free rent.

1600

Mr. Harris: In London, yes. Perhaps everybody is embarrassed by the way the Premier is acting and they all want to move out of London. I do not know if that would increase the supply. I jest, of course. So with the exception, it appears, of London, the supply problem is worse.

Second, the minister talked about protection for renters. She talked about the fine work she has done in protecting renters. She says she has

rent review legislation that is fair to both the landlord and to the tenants. The landlords do not believe it is fair; the tenants do not believe it is fair. The only measure of fairness that I can imagine the minister will come up with is that everybody agrees it is not working. It is too complicated.

I saw a big advertisement in the paper today, paid for by the Ministry of Housing through a grant to a landlord group, and headlined, “Are you having problems with some tenants?” That was the question. It said: “Come to this government-sponsored seminar. We will tell you how to deal with those.” Another one was, “Are your rents abnormally low?” That was right at the top of the ad. It asked: “Are your rents too low, Mr. Landlord? We are spending taxpayers’ dollars to tell you how to come down here. We have got a seminar to explain things to you.”

I objected to the tone of it, but I do understand. The legislation is so complex that landlords do not understand it well; tenants do not understand it well. None of the groups thinks that it is working well.

With a supply crisis, perhaps the more important question of protection for the tenant is just getting a roof over his head. So if he could even find a vacant apartment to rent the chances are that it is going to cost him or her far more than he can afford to pay.

Rental accommodation costs in Toronto are now the second highest in the world, surpassed only by Tokyo. We pointed this out in the House a couple of weeks ago. They have gone from somewhere around 14th to second in the time this government has been in office. So the real story of how the minister is protecting tenants is a little different from the tenants’ point of view.

Partnership with the municipalities and the building industry: This was the third thing the minister talked about. She proclaims her groundbreaking successes in forging lines of communication and co-operation with the municipalities and the building industry.

I would agree. She appears to be spending a significant amount of money on consulting and consultants’ reports. But what have been the results? The results have been dismal. We can also look at the process the minister is so proud of. She says she is talking to the municipalities. She is talking to the builders and talking to the landlords. This is under her theme of partnership with the municipalities and the building industry. What do they think of this new level of partnership that has been forged by the Minister of Housing?

Let us look at the example of the consultation on the Rental Housing Protection Act. The minister extended the act a year ago in order to "allow for consultation." Both the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and various organizations representing the building industry presented extensive briefs to the Ministry of Housing, and for the most part their views were completely ignored. The AMO feared that a new act would result in a further reduction of any semblance of incentive for the private sector to invest in the rental housing supply.

The representatives of the industry made their views clear this morning at a press conference sponsored by a group called the Alliance for Housing, a new coalition made up of the Urban Development Institute of Ontario, the Fair Rental Policy Organization of Ontario and the Ontario Home Builders' Association. All three have tried to deal individually with the government over the past year and a half and all three have come to the same conclusion. The Liberal government is not willing to listen. The government has not responded to their briefs, has not paid attention at meetings.

They have been given a symbolic audience with the government, and that is all. In the words of Aldo Di Iorio, the president of the Ontario Home Builders' Association, "The consultative process is a sham." It is not the New Democratic Party or the Conservative Party or the member for Nipissing; this is the group of which, in January, the minister said clearly, "I'm proud of our consultation with these groups."

"The consultative process is a sham." This man heads the organization that builds 80 per cent of the housing in this province. If this is what the municipalities and the building industry think of their new partnership with the Ministry of Housing, I suggest we have some problems.

Housing supply means much more than the number of units of social housing that have been promised for some point down the road. Protection for the renters of the province is not something that can be effected merely by invoking a piece of legislation, but virtually everyone agrees that this particular piece of legislation needs to be scrapped. The historic partnership, of which the minister is so proud, between her government, the municipalities and the industry is not something for which those groups are sharing this minister's enthusiasm.

What about the possibilities of home ownership for the people of this province? I believe, and I think my colleagues would agree with me, not just those members of my caucus but

members on both sides of the chamber, that home ownership is an important goal to which all Ontarians should be able to aspire. Surely we would want all Ontarians to have the opportunity, if they wish, to be able to own their own little plot of land somewhere.

Clearly, that is not the case. This Liberal government either does not accept that idea or it acknowledges that it is no longer possible. It throws up its hands, I guess, and says: "It's just not possible, so now you'll have to forget your plot of land. We'll have to see if we can find you a town house or a condominium somewhere," which we know are not really available either.

I do not think that is the right response. I applauded the minister and the Premier today in the House and said that I think it is important that they acknowledged the problem. They said: "They're not available. Single, detached homes are not available." I thought that was an important first step.

Surely, the second part of that must be, "What do we have to do to change it?" Not, in my view: "It isn't available, so it isn't available. You must accept that. That is the reality of Ontario under our government in the 1990s and beyond. That is no longer going to be an option."

I do not accept that. I do not accept throwing up my hands and saying that it is no longer going to be an option. I think we have to look at ways to make it, once again, an option. I think we have to look at ways to restore that dream of home ownership to the people of this province, particularly in and around Metropolitan Toronto.

I think we have to look at why it happened. We have to look at what mistakes were made or actions that were not taken that should have been taken, and we must try to correct those. I believe—and my party has made suggestion after suggestion over the past three and a half years, as new prosperity came to this province, as new money rolled in, as spending was being increased, double the rate of inflation, taxes were being increased—that there are a number of things that government must do.

We all agree, regardless of philosophy, there are some things government must do. There are some things the private sector really cannot do. I do not think anybody would suggest that we turn the road system over to the private sector. It might be a thought; perhaps there are some who would. But I think everybody would accept that the road system is something that only the government can pull together. I do not think we want to see privately owned toll booths and

privately owned highways. I do not think anybody in Ontario is advocating that.

1610

Sewers and water are the infrastructure things that some level of government must be involved in. In the case of roads, sewage plants, sewer systems, the infrastructure, water, historically and traditionally, have been a partnership of the provincial government and the municipalities. The only federal government involvement was in the Great Lakes water cleanup, for those areas they had in there from the sewer and water end.

If you are going to have more people in the province, those are things that government has to increase funding on. I would be the first to say that increases in excess of inflation have to be spent on the infrastructure things when you have more people. You can justify it because there are more people paying the taxes.

But this government did not do that. They did not seem to appreciate or realize that as a million or so more people over the past three and a half years—I do not know the exact number; maybe the minister knows the number who have moved into Ontario in three and a half years—but a substantial number of new people have moved in and a substantial number of new people have found jobs in this province who did not have them three and a half years ago.

Next to nothing has been done to put in new sewage capacity, new water capacity, new garbage capacity and new transportation capacity, be it roads, be it urban transit, so we have a problem. Yesterday, I saw in the paper as I was travelling from Ottawa to Kingston and keeping track of what was going on here, that the Premier had said: "You're right. Affordable housing is no longer available in Metropolitan Toronto. People will have to go farther away. They will have to drive farther and we'll have to provide roads and transportation."

This is a terrible admission to make three and a half years after the horse is out of the barn. We have been saying these things. We have been telling the government these things, and we have had the same stock answer come back at us that the problem is supply. We know that.

I do not accept that a government should just say, "Affordable home ownership is no longer possible in Metropolitan Toronto." I think there are a number of things that could have been done over the past three and a half years. In addition to the infrastructure items I have mentioned, I think the red tape could have been reduced.

The builders, the home owners, the municipalities have been crying for this to speed up the

process. Project after project after project has been held up in the Ministry of the Environment, not on environmental grounds but because the blooming application could not get from the bottom of the pile to the top of the pile for months and months on end.

I had projects in North Bay that required Ministry of the Environment approval. I would start calling at the local level. I would start working my way up. I would get up to the deputy minister. I would get everywhere, wherever I could, and I was told: "Mike, I think we can speed this up. I think we can get it done maybe in three or four months. We can get a look at it." It was the type of engineering drawing that needed a stamp. It took 10 minutes' worth of work once they got to it, but it is all backed up.

The red tape problem was not treated seriously. The builders, the developers and the municipalities have been telling the minister that if we are going to have an influx of people and if we are going to solve the supply problem, we must be able to get developed land, serviced land that can handle garbage, that can handle traffic, that can handle sewer and water. We must be able to get an adequate supply of it. If we can do that, we can increase the supply and we will not get the dramatic increase in prices that we have seen.

Those are some of the areas that should have been done over the past three and a half years. I would have been prouder of the Premier and the minister if, in admitting that home ownership is no longer possible for moderate-income people, they had said: "We admit that is the case today. However, we are going to take a look at the way we have been operating for the past three and a half years, and we are prepared to listen. We are prepared to make the changes that are necessary so that will not be the case next year or the year after or at some point in the future." That, I believe, would have been the other half of a responsible conclusion to that.

Now we are conceding that only the very wealthy can even begin to contemplate the idea of purchasing a home in and around Metropolitan Toronto, and I do not accept that. That is not good. I accept that is the reality, but I do not accept that should be the goal and we should just simply admit that. We must return affordable housing to the reach, to the dreams of at least average- and moderate-income Ontarians.

I think there is a sinking feeling out there that the door has been closed. Had the minister said: "For today, you can look at a condominium. You can look farther out. Yes, there will be traffic problems, but if we get our act together,

hopefully we will solve those. In the meantime, we will continue to look at it and, hopefully, find some solutions. We think we can increase supply," that response might have left a little bit of hope.

But to just give up and apparently close the door entirely was very difficult to take. If there are people out there who hold a flicker of hope, even the smallest glimmer of hope for the dream of home ownership, even after hearing the numbers and the words of the Minister of Housing yesterday, then they are going to have to look farther and farther afield, miles away from Toronto, potentially 30, 50, 75, 100 kilometres away from their place of employment.

Even in these areas, from Burlington up to Barrie, to Oshawa, the outer limits of the Toronto commutershed, if you like, and even beyond its reasonable limits, one would have to look long and hard indeed to find a home that was affordable for most of those who aspire even now to home ownership. Their options are narrowing. The minister knows that. She has said numerous times in the House in response to questions, "Increase the supply of broadly affordable housing." She has said that repeatedly, but there is not much to show at this point in time for her efforts to ensure that there is a supply of single detached homes.

Members on this side of the House pressed the minister over a month ago to identify the affordable housing in the Metro area she was speaking of at that time. She could not. Members will remember that one of the major papers invested some research and found about 20 in all of the Metro area. Last week, one of those 20 that had sold for \$120,000 before Christmas was back on the market for \$189,000, so that one was gone.

How did the minister move with great speed to solve this problem? It appears to me she decided to have the problem go away by changing the definition of affordability. That is the quickest way to solve the problem. If this is the level of affordability and there is nothing available, then let's call the level something else. The minister's new definition does not cover this particular house, but it will come as a great relief to those Ontarians who are looking to purchase a home that the minister has a new definition of affordability.

1620

I do not believe this government has taken one single step in three and a half years that would alleviate the crisis in affordable housing in this province. The only new initiative to make

particularly single family homes affordable that this government has taken has been to increase the cost.

Land transfer taxes, in the third quarter statement released today by the Treasurer, I think are up another \$50 million. I do not have my comparative figures, but I think they are up—the budget plan was half a billion, and the current outlook is now \$560,000,000, up \$60 million more than the Treasurer thought. Half a billion dollars—\$560,000,000—in land transfer taxes are being sucked out of the housing market.

That is an awesome level of taxation for what, if it is not the top priority, is, I think the minister and I agree, a top priority and equal to other priorities. Those taxes have been increased substantially since this government took office and, let's face it, it is an inflation index tax because, as the price of the house goes up, the tax collected goes up.

I suspect that when a house jumps \$100,000 in price, Treasury officials and the Treasurer sit there in glee because they get so much more from it in taxation. I think that is wrong. I believe it is wrong to try to solve one problem on the back of another. I think it is wrong to substantially increase taxes on new home construction, on repairs to the homes.

The only new initiative we have heard in the last little while since the last budget has been the Treasurer's proposal for a new lot levy, to add some more lot levies. I pointed out, in the three and a half years since this government has been in office, lot levies have gone up 98 per cent. They have virtually doubled already since this government has been in office. Now the Treasurer thinks it would be a good way to finance new school construction.

That does not make sense to me or to most Ontarians. People who have been paying taxes all their lives, who will continue to pay taxes the rest of their lives before and after the event of buying a new home, should by themselves pay for all the new schools. That does not seem to be fair to them. They do not understand why the property taxes that they paid—let's say they paid them for 30 years as a renter; let's say they paid them for 30 years as a home owner—now maybe they are going to move across the street into a newly constructed home or maybe they are going to move into a different neighbourhood in their community.

All of a sudden, that is how the government is going to finance the new school that is there. They have lived in the community all their lives; they have paid for the existing schools that were

there. They did not cause the new school to have to be built. It seems to me that education should be a cost that is borne over as broadly based a taxation system as possible. It is the responsibility of all of us, whether we have children or not, whether it is a commercial or industrial assessment or business tax. Everybody must be concerned and pay a share of education taxes.

Now to want to transfer and reduce the government share from 75 per cent of capital costs to 60 per cent and tie it into having the local school board have to make up that additional 15 per cent for new school construction by way of a new lot levy does not add up to me at all.

We pointed out in this House that when you increase the inputs into a product, the product costs more. The Premier said: "No, that's not the case, not necessarily. I think the builders might just eat that additional cost and not pass it on." That is just absolute silliness. That is like saying that if a car costs \$12,000 to build and the inputs all of a sudden cost another \$5,000, "Look, it's going to cost them \$5,000 more to build this car, but I think the car builder will be happy to eat that and take \$5,000 less profit or go into a loss position." It does not make sense.

If the Premier is implying that there is a hot housing market and the market forces are causing it, not the cost inputs, and they will come down, then I would argue that the price of that house will not come down that additional \$5,000 or \$10,000; it will be \$5,000 or \$10,000 higher. That is what the home builders say. That is what the municipalities say. That is what everybody I talked to says. They said, "If it costs \$10,000 more to put the roof on today than it did yesterday, the house is going to cost \$10,000 more."

We see the builders' association now suggesting that all builders put a clause into their contracts that says, "If some new lot levy proposal comes in some time in the future that affects this house you're buying"—right in the agreement of purchase and sale—"you'll have to pay that."

In the midst of the worst housing crisis in our history, when house prices in some areas of this province have jumped more than 150 per cent in less than two years, in the midst of a crisis of unprecedented proportions, this government demonstrates its concern for housing by slapping yet another tax on the construction of new homes. I do not know how the government has the audacity to impose what I think is a barefaced tax grab on new home buyers in this province and then still claim that housing is a top priority. That

does not add up to me. I do not believe it adds up to the people of Ontario.

When we asked about it, the minister said that taxes are the responsibility of the Treasurer. I understand that. I have been around this place for a while. I understand that taxation policies are the Treasurer's. I also understand that various members of the governing party are asked to assume some cabinet responsibilities, to represent that ministry, to speak on behalf of that portfolio, to speak up, in the minister's case, on behalf of housing. Nobody has heard the minister speak up on behalf of housing interests in the case of additional taxes. The Treasurer put out a green paper, so we would be interested to know when the Minister of Housing is going to speak up on behalf of affordable housing.

I could talk about the Ontario home ownership savings plan that seems not to be working very well. Truly, with the modest amount of money somebody might be able to save by not having to pay tax on the money that is put away, they are falling farther and farther behind. They would be better off not to do that if the idea is to be able to buy a home at some time.

There are not very many options available to a young person or a young couple living and working in the city of Toronto. There are not many options open to them in terms of accommodation.

1630

I suggest the only alternative then is to rent. Unfortunately, as I pointed out, the rental situation in this province is no better than the situation for home buyers. Logically, the number of persons seeking rental accommodation is increasing, because fewer people can afford to buy a home. Supply is the problem. There are not enough homes on the market. It is increasing because of a steady influx of population. In some weeks, we hear, there are up to 1,000 new residents moving into this metropolitan area.

We hear responses from the government that this is why there is a problem. There are 1,000 new people moving into Toronto every week. We understand that is a problem. If you do not plan for it, it is a problem. The answer at the end of the year is that there are 52,000 new people. What do you expect? It is a problem. If the government does not respond to that challenge, it will be a bigger problem at the end of the year. That is not an answer. That is the situation as it exists.

So when we ask questions, we do not expect to be told for the 50th time that the problem is there is a shortage of supply. The problem is there are

people moving into Toronto. We understand that. That is not the answer.

Mr. Fleet: What is your solution? You haven't got any.

Mr. Harris: If the member for High Park-Swansea (Mr. Fleet) would like to enter into the debate, I do not mind taking a short break. If not, I suggest he go back and review Hansard with my remarks and the number of solutions I have proposed. Those things should have been done over the past three and a half years and should be looked at now.

Mr. Fleet: Lower taxes and spend more money, the usual solution.

Mr. Harris: If the member would like to get into the debate, he should go ahead. If not, I will complete my comments because we have a number of specific questions in a number of areas, as I indicated at the start of my remarks, about how this ministry operates. We want to get into the efficiency of the ministry as well as a number of policy question areas.

I have referred to comments that were made by Mr. Di Iorio yesterday morning.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: Today.

Mr. Harris: Sorry; this morning. It was an indictment of a government that responds that we must work together. I understand that. We must work together. Our question is, why are they not working together? If they are attempting to, why is it not working?

Mr. Di Iorio says: "We are working with a government that will not accept its responsibilities to the people of Ontario. The government will not respond to our briefs. It will not pay attention to us in their meeting rooms. As all of you know only too well, this government governs by reading the newspapers and listening to radio and television. What matters at Queen's Park is getting the issue of the day out of the way, off the air and off the front page."

This is from the president of the association that builds 80 per cent of the homes in this province. Clearly, there is not co-operation at this time with those people whom we need as active participants, partners and players.

I do not want to refer to any more of it. I think the minister gets the message and the impression that the other players who must be brought to the table, who must be involved and who must work in a co-operative partnership way must be treated differently by this government if they are going to be part of the solution. In fact, the government is not going to be able to, unless it is planning to double the whole budget and say, "The govern-

ment will build every house that has to be built in this province." I do not think the government has that many billions of dollars or the ability to get them.

I will conclude my opening remarks right now and say we look forward, some of my colleagues and myself, to raising a number of issues on how this ministry functions, how it operates, how it spends its money, how it apparently wastes some, and whether the directions in the policy areas this government is going in are indeed part of the problem or whether they are part of the solution.

I conclude on this note: If the minister truly wants help, I say we are available to help. We do want to see the problem solved. I do not come here day after day and stand here in this chamber saying that my role and my objective are to point out how everything the government does does not work. That is not my first choice. As an opposition member now, I must accept my responsibility to point out when things are not working. But there are processes available. There are inputs that I think this government must learn to listen to and learn to access.

I indicate to the minister that in this area of her responsibility, as I have indicated to other ministers in critic roles I have had and in any capacity I have, that we are available to help and to be part of the solutions as well, if we are given the opportunity to do so.

The Acting Chairman (Ms. Poole): I would like to thank the member for Nipissing for his comments. Normally we would go to the member for Oshawa for his opening comments at this time. Since he has not returned, perhaps we will go to the minister for her response to the member for Nipissing.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I am pleased to say we have addressed the issues the member for Nipissing has been raising in his gently meandering talk. I am glad we agree that the supply of housing is indeed crucial and critical. I am also glad to tell the member that in some of the issues we have been addressing and some of the initiatives we have taken, the initiatives we have taken about supply are addressing the needs of the people of the province who really need it.

The first example of increasing supply is the increased commitment of this government, an unprecedented commitment by any provincial government ever before, to unilaterally, on our own with our resources from the province, fund the building of 30,000 nonprofit units all over the province to make sure that perhaps 90,000 people will be housed in the buildings we are

building and the integrated communities in which we are investing, to make sure that people in the province have more housing choices. I think the people who have been moving into our nonprofit housing and who will be moving into that housing believe we are doing a very great deal.

I know that when I visited Thunder Bay a number of weeks ago and talked with the people in the women's community there, they told me our programs in northwestern Ontario have made a very significant difference in what happens to the lives of people in that community. They told me that as a result of the increased supply of nonprofit housing in that area, battered women who in the past would have had to return to battering and abusive situations now have choices they would not otherwise have had.

1640

I meet people every day who as a result of the commitments of this government and the work we have done have a place to live they would otherwise not have. I do not think those people would agree with the member opposite when he says we have not made a difference.

There are real people living lives in this community who have roofs over their heads and decent places to live in which to raise their children as a result of the work we are doing, together with the community groups across this province. There will be more. I think we have much to be pleased with in the unprecedented commitment this provincial government has made to increasing the supply of nonprofit housing.

The other way in which we will increase supply—the member opposite so kindly suggests that he agrees with me that supply is the major issue—is in our use of government land. The government of Ontario has land, and when it is surplus to our uses we are prepared to, and have said very explicitly that we will, use it for the purpose of housing the people in this province who need help with housing.

Earlier today when the member was responding to something I said in question period, he said there was only one piece of land he could think of and that was the piece of Downsview land the federal government had released. Let me assure the member, if he was not around for the announcements on the work we have been doing, that there have been eight pieces of land released by the provincial government.

Mr. Harris: I said the provincial land that was for \$4,000 a foot; that's what I said.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: If the member opposite would like to comment again, I would be glad to hear him, but the provincial government has released eight pieces of land so far for the purposes of meeting people's housing needs.

There will be more pieces released. The member opposite knows, for example, that the piece of land in Etobicoke-Lakeshore, the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital site, is under active discussion right now for the purpose of building nonprofit housing and community housing that will meet people's needs.

There are many other such pieces. More are coming. I am extremely pleased about that. I think it is an unprecedented commitment from this level of government in using the resources we have as intelligently and creatively as we can for the benefit of people who need help with housing.

Since the member has already offered his help because he is so committed to the same goals, let me point out to him that there is a lot of federal land in the greater Toronto area and all over Ontario. I invite him to add his bit in convincing the federal government to use its lands in an analogous way to increase housing options for the people of this province.

The cost of land is the single most important factor in the cost of housing in this province. The differential cost of land, depending on location, is the single biggest thing that makes a difference in housing. He knows that; he nods his head sagely. I know that. Everyone in this room knows that.

We in the province are prepared to use our land to make a difference. We are inviting the federal government to do the same thing. The member opposite, in his kind willingness to help us, is invited to speak to his colleagues on the federal scene and urge them to use their lands, which after all are public lands belonging to all the taxpayers of Canada including the taxpayers of Ontario, for that purpose.

The member speaks again and again about the whole question of lot levies. He says it is a silly way to finance schools. I will not comment on the views expressed by his colleague the member for Markham (Mr. Cousens), who has come into the room since the member made that comment. In December, his colleague the member for Markham said he thought lot levies might be a very good way of making a difference.

What I want to say is that the whole question of lot levies, whether they are education lot levies or other forms of lot levies, has to deal with the question of funding growth, and funding growth

is a very serious issue in this province, as the member opposite has acknowledged.

Let me say how pleased I am to hear him say repeatedly today that the problem is one of supply and to acknowledge it is also a problem of demand, because 100,000 people came into this province last year, and 110,000 people came the year before. Our economic growth means many more people are coming every year. They will continue to do so as long as we have the luck and foresight to be a place of economic growth. That will place its own burdens on all of us and that is part of what we have to respond to.

Funding for that growth is a very real challenge. As the member knows, the green paper that was released a while back laid out some options for consideration. We have asked for comment from everyone concerned, including the building industry. We hope to receive thoughtful answers. We know that new development must have quality services because all of us are accustomed to quality services. We do not want new housing built with inferior services.

We are engaged in an exercise to determine what the appropriate level of service is for new development and what portions of the costs should be borne by various forms of financing. That is what we are discussing right now. When the various interest groups have made their proposals by the end of this month, we will know better what those views are.

The member opposite has made some comments about partnerships. Let me say that I think I have been quite clear that no one group can solve the housing situation in this province. We all have to work together. Every municipality must plan for the realities we face, must plan for the economic region in which it is located and for its own population. In every economic region there are people of various income levels contributing to the growth of the economy.

There are municipalities in this province right now that seem to believe they can build a wall around themselves and only allow people to live there who have a great deal of money to buy very large, very expensive homes. That is a very short-sighted way to proceed because we need homes for the people who work in this community. We need homes for the people who make our province strong. It is no longer possible for any municipality to say, "That's not my problem," because all economic areas have to find a way to build the housing that is appropriate to the economic needs of the region and for the people who live and work there.

In our land use policy, we are saying to municipalities: "We will work with you. Plan together with us. Make sure you have some goals that are realistic about the actual needs of your community. You can no longer pretend that the large house on the large lot will deal with all the needs that are out there. Where are the teachers going to live? Where are the people who drive the buses going to live? Where are the people working in the factories going to live? Where are the people serving food in the restaurants going to live if we do not have homes of various sizes and of various qualities, diverse choices for everyone?"

So every municipality must have a plan. They have a responsibility, as do we, to provide affordable housing. This level of government has not shirked its responsibility. This government has admitted its responsibility and made enormous efforts to give people choices in housing. What we are asking municipalities to do is to join us in that process. That is what the land use policy statement is about. It means that from now on municipalities have to make sure that a quarter of new housing is affordable. It means municipalities have to make sure we use the land we have better.

The member opposite said earlier that he was concerned people should continue to have the dream of home ownership. It seems to me we can indeed make sure people have homes to live in, homes of various sorts, homes of various sizes to deal with the different family sizes, the different tastes, the different lifestyles, the different values of the people in this province. In order to make that possible, we have to use the land we already have in our developed communities more intelligently. We have to allow mature communities to intensify, to create housing within the housing that is already there, to use infill, to use land better.

We are asking the municipalities to be our partners in this process. Ottawa and Peterborough have become our partners in a formal way. Other municipalities are working with us, as is the Catholic archdiocese, and we expect the other levels of government will do their share. That is all we are asking for. We will do our share and we expect other levels of government to do their share.

The member opposite referred to increasing home prices, which is just another indicator of what we have been talking about for months and months.

Ms. Bryden: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman: It seems to me the minister is

repeating a great deal of the material that was in her introductory speech, and estimates really are for questions to be asked on specific points. I think we should give the opposition an opportunity to ask some questions.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I am in a quandary, sir, because the member for Nipissing, who is my critic, made a speech in which he raised a number of issues. I am trying to respond somewhat systematically to the questions he raised. He, however, has left the House.

Mr. Cousens: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman: Our House leader has been here and is willing to participate. I am here to fill in for him. He may not be here but I have been following it in detail, and I have to say that the point of order raised by the member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden) is most accurate. The repetition that is going on here is just wasting time in the House.

1650

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I was under the impression that when a member made a speech, it was open to me to respond to him. That is what I am doing and I am following the issues the member himself raised. If the member for Markham is concerned that the things I am saying have been heard before in the House, perhaps he should notice that the questions have been asked before in the House and the issues have been raised before in the House.

I am merely trying to respond, as well as I know how, to the issues that were raised by the member for Nipissing. I am happy to abide by the chair's ruling on whether I should do that or not.

Ms. Bryden: In most estimates, there is usually a preagreement that the opening statements take so much time and then there is a certain amount of time for the minister's response. But it is flexible, I agree. We have very limited time, and just at the moment I think there should be some time for opposition questions that have been prepared.

The Deputy Chairman: We have approximately 11 hours remaining in estimates for the Ministry of Housing. We were not able to follow the ordinary practice, which would be the opening statement by the opposition, because of the absence of the member for Oshawa, so the minister was asked to respond to the opening statement by the critic for the third party, which is what she indicates she is attempting to do. So we are somewhat out of order in terms of rotation, but I think it is appropriate in view of the absence of the member for Oshawa.

However, through the remaining hours I will abide by the standing orders, which require me to apportion the time between the government and the critics. I hope we can do that fairly, but we are in a difficult situation, as I say, because of the absence of the member for Oshawa. Could the minister please respond to the questions raised by the critic for the third party?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: Thank you. I am glad to hear that the member for Markham is here to listen to the things that the member for Nipissing raised. I hope he will convey to him my very best wishes and my understanding that, since he is really committed to helping the government in its agenda to increase the supply of housing for the people of this province, he will pass on to him my responses to all the issues that were raised by the member for Nipissing.

The member for Nipissing referred to increasing home prices, which seem to me to be just another indicator of something we have been talking about for a long time. The demand for housing in this city and in this province is the greatest we have ever seen. I do not minimize that, nor do I minimize the impact on us of a massive in-migration of people. The majority of in-migration in the province has come to Metropolitan Toronto. All of us recognize that and there are costs to pay for that.

It distresses me greatly that this means the lives of people of moderate and low income are even harder than they already were. That is the reason this government has made its commitment to make as much of a difference as it possibly can, and that is why we call out to other levels of government for their commitment as well.

We have said we can make a lot of difference in this province by better using the land, the houses and the buildings we already have through intensification. The member for Nipissing, who was here a while ago, made a bit of a to-do about the cost of infrastructure. Let me point out to him, in his absence, that the roads and the sewers we have already invested in are, in many communities, completely underused because of changing settlement patterns. That is one of the reasons we have put so much emphasis on intensifying what we already have, on infill, on rebuilding and redevelopment; because the province and the taxpayers of the province have already invested billions of dollars in roads and sewers that are already here, which we could be using much more intelligently, to give people many more choices than they now have. That is one of the things we are doing.

In the private sector, let me point out that the Toronto Real Estate Board, which is clearly a private sector organization, has made an agreement with us to work with us on identifying appropriate projects for intensification and helping them to happen, as a model to the community of what can be done and what can be done by the private sector in a way that will give it its appropriate profit and still give us a product and a set of choices in housing that we do not currently have enough of.

The other thing we are doing in this area is that we have a group of people responsible for the greater Toronto area and for the planning of infrastructure: of roads, of sewers, of highways, all the infrastructure needed to cope with the massive growth which the member for Nipissing, when he was here, so clearly pointed out. Yes, we are facing massive growth, but we are trying to plan an integrated way of dealing with that growth, integrating the needs for sewers, for roads, for housing and for all those services. Let me point out also that we are spending a great deal of money on transportation and in the Ministry of the Environment for sewers.

One other example we have managed that I think we are very proud of, one of the things we have done that I am extremely pleased with and that I think the rest of the community is very pleased with, is, working together with the city of Toronto, we have taken on the responsibility, together with them, of developing up to 7,000 housing units east of the St. Lawrence Market area, in an area that is now radically underused, to house people of all incomes in a mixed-income community, a community called St. Lawrence Square.

That project is the biggest such project ever undertaken by any government in Canada. I am extremely pleased about the fact that we are working together with the municipality of Toronto on that. When it is completed, many people will have homes. I can tell the members opposite, and in particular the member for Markham, who was my critic once, that there is already, in one of the buildings in that area, a group of people who were formerly homeless who are building their own accommodation right now, who are making homes for themselves in the St. Lawrence Square community.

We have also worked actively in our consultations with mayors and regional chairs on finding ways to work together to increase the supply of housing out there through intensification and through more intelligent use of the land we have, and planning for the future, because I agree with

the member for Nipissing, planning is crucial in order to make a difference here. This government has done something really unusual and groundbreaking. What we have said is that from now on a social need must also be addressed through the planning process; not merely physical needs, but a social need, the need for housing products that are at a level that people can afford to live in them.

We have said that from now on at least one quarter—and I consider that to be the floor, not the ceiling—of the new housing built in all communities in this province must be at a level that is affordable to the vast majority of people in this province. That is a new direction, and I consider it to be a ground-breaking one; the first time in any jurisdiction I know of that a social goal has been put into the planning process, and one which I think is going to make an enormous difference.

The member opposite made much of a to-do about the fact that the private sector is somehow excluded from all we are doing. That is simply wrong. He is not being accurate. Thirty thousand units in this province are going to be built. Who are they going to be built by?

The government of Ontario does not have its own building crew. The people who build housing in this province for the nonprofit sector are indeed the private sector who work in partnership with the nonprofit sector and who will make perfectly reasonable returns on their work in the building of the 30,000 additional homes being funded entirely by the province. They will all be built by the private sector. In fact, I am approached all the time by people in the private sector who are so delighted that we are doing this building and who want to be part of the process. They want to build.

The other thing the private sector people have said to me very clearly is that they can build affordable homes all over this province. They say they can do it. They say they can do it within their own economic needs. They can build affordable housing in this province, but what they require is an active partnership with municipalities so that they can move more quickly, streamline the approvals process, make sure they can use land in more creative ways and work together with the rules of the municipal system and with the provincial government to make sure there is more housing out there for people who need it.

I am the first person to admit that not enough of that housing exists. If it did exist, we would not need our land use policy statement. If it did exist—

Mr. Allen: Every report that has ever been done tells us that the private sector has never done as well and never provided for all of the population.

1700

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I am sure the member for Hamilton West (Mr. Allen) has wonderful ideas to add to this. I am looking forward to his comments later.

We know the people in the private sector know they can build homes that people will be glad to live in and can afford to buy, if we change the framework and the rules under which they operate, and that is the goal of my ministry.

The other things the member for Nipissing mentioned when he was here to indicate his grave concern for the renters of the province—

Mr. Cousens: Don't be sarcastic. He really meant it. He is really trying and you are just so sarcastic. It is really offensive.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The member for Markham is commenting on my talk, and I feel that I am indicating very clearly my very great pleasure in the member for Nipissing's commitment to these areas.

Mr. Cousens: I think you are sarcastic. You are offensive. Don't be sarcastic.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: It seems to me that since there are three million renters in the province who are protected by rent review, they will be pleased to know that the member for Nipissing is concerned about their views and their concerns as well.

We have offered some very real protections to the tenants of this province by covering all buildings, by making sure that rent increases must be justified, by protecting people against their buildings being turned into suite hotels, by creating a rent registry where over 500,000 rental units are on the system and information about the legal rents for those apartments is available to the public by the creation of the Residential Rental Standards Board, as a result of which hundreds of landlords have complied with work orders which have been outstanding for a long time.

The level of maintenance in this province has been improved by the fact that we have a standards board which has said that buildings must be maintained appropriately. The tenants who live in those buildings where improvements have been made and have better standards of maintenance thank this government for the difference it has made.

We have also indicated protections for people against having to deal with key money.

Ms. Bryden: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman: The other parties have had two hours in the past three hours and it seems to me that the last hour should be reserved for the official opposition, which has not had one opportunity to say anything in this afternoon's debate. I think the minister has to make her comments much shorter and I also think she should really yield the floor at this stage. She can make her comments in replying to questions rather than repeating most of her previous speech.

Mr. Fleet: Rising on the same point of order, Mr. Chairman, my understanding was that the chair had already ruled on this point and I would not think it appropriate to raise the same point. As I understand it, it is exactly what you ruled on just a few minutes ago. We ought to proceed as you had ruled previously.

The Deputy Chairman: Could I ask the minister to be concise in her response to the speech by the member for Nipissing?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member for Nipissing raised the issue of the Rental Housing Protection Act, which protects tenants against illegal evictions, conversions and demolitions. That new act was introduced at the end of January. It offers new and tougher protections for tenants against illegal activities, it covers vacant buildings and it gives fines or jail terms for offenders. I think it is much stronger legislation for protecting tenants.

He made a comment about consultation. I am very pleased with the level of consultation in my ministry. We talk to people in the private market, to landlords, to tenants and to people active in social housing all the time. I would make a distinction, however, between consultation and total agreement.

It is indeed true that we consulted with landlords and with builders on the question of the Rental Housing Protection Act. We heard their concerns. We listened to them very carefully. We happened not to agree with them, which is what happens when you have a consultation. There are moments in which governments have to make hard choices. We made our hard choice, but that does not undermine the significance and the meaningfulness of our consultation process. We listen to all the people who are involved in these issues. We do not always agree with them.

It seems to me that the Rental Housing Protection Act does very much in providing protections to the tenants of this province. I believe that the tenants of this province agree with me, because when the new version of the act was tabled in the House, various members of

tenants' organizations indicated that they were extremely pleased with the level of protection this legislation would offer them.

As I said, we made some hard choices. I think they are going to protect tenants very significantly. I am glad we did that. I understand very clearly that the landlords in the province are not pleased with the legislation.

We have talked a great deal to the home builders, who are a very important part of the housing industry in this province. They do the work of physical construction. It seems to me that people in the housing industry know very clearly that they were consulted often and significantly as we were designing our Homes Now, the project of building 30,000 new homes, and as we talked about the Rental Housing Protection Act. We are in the midst, right now, of consulting about how to implement our land use policy and on the green paper dealing with financing growth.

If the member for Nipissing feels otherwise, I am extremely sorry, but if he is saying that our agenda is not identical to the agenda of the home builders, then I have to say that is exactly right. We share a lot of concerns with the home builders of the province, but our agenda is not identical to theirs. We have other concerns that are perhaps different from theirs. In the areas in which we overlap we are able to take a great deal of advice; in other areas we have to proceed on our own judgement and understanding of what would be best for the people of the province.

We are working very closely with the people in the home building industry on some of our initiatives. One very obvious one is a joint project of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the home builders in the community. It was an initiative announced by the Premier. What we are doing is working together with AMO, the building industry and the province on recommendations to streamline the planning and approvals process. I hope I can comment more specifically about those initiatives, but it is an initiative I am extremely pleased with. Instead of its being a conversation about what we might be able to do together some day, what we have done is to work together to come up with very specific things we can do to fix the planning and approvals process so that it is more reasonable, more rational, more in line with the realities of building faster and better.

In order to do this, the province will have to make some changes, municipalities will have to make some changes and builders will have to make some changes. That is what I think a

partnership is all about, doing what we can do in all our roles to make a difference in the project we are engaged in together.

When the member for Nipissing was here he spoke about affordable home ownership and affordable housing. I know he is speaking about various types of housing—rental units, town homes, condominiums, semi-detached houses, detached houses, nonprofit houses, co-ops—the range and the mix that he is encouraging in his own municipal council in North Bay. There he is in North Bay encouraging this mix of different kinds of housing, as do we, because the people in the province have many different needs and many different wishes. We want to make sure that those are met by having a variety of choices available.

Let me conclude my remarks on the words of the third party's housing critic by saying that I appreciate his support, as he has so very kindly extended it, and thanking him for reinforcing what this government has been saying and working on all along, that we have to continue to increase the supply of housing. He has said that and I am very pleased to hear him say that we must continue to form more partnerships with those who can help us—church groups, community groups, municipalities, the federal government, with which I understand he must have a special relationship.

I am very glad to make the point again that we must continue to protect the three million renters in this province and that we must continue to provide leadership and support so that we can continue to open doors for those people who need help with housing, who are the people I consider most when we make decisions in the Ministry of Housing and in the government as a whole.

The Deputy Chairman: Before proceeding further, let me indicate that I am given to understand the opposition Housing critic will be here on Monday, at which time he will have his speech responded to by the minister. Therefore, I would like now to proceed to questions and comments by other members, on the understanding that we are coming back to the opposition critic.

Before doing so, I would also like to have a determination by the committee on how it would like to proceed. Is it the wish of the committee to proceed on a vote-by-vote basis, that is from vote 1901 to 1904 inclusive, or would you rather have a wide-ranging discussion on all of the votes simultaneously? Could I have an indication from each of the parties in that regard?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: Of course, we will do as the critics wish.

1710

Ms. Bryden: I think we would prefer a wide-ranging discussion, in view of the shortness of time for these estimates.

Mr. Cousens: I agree that we should have a wide-ranging discussion and then get down to the votes at the very last.

The Deputy Chairman: Therefore, could I now have questions and comments from the other members.

Ms. Bryden: I say we need lots of time for a wide-ranging discussion because we have not really discussed the issue of what the government is going to do about the housing crisis in this province, and in the major urban centres in particular.

As we know, Metropolitan Toronto has a vacancy rate of 0.2 per cent. In yesterday's paper, it was pointed out that the average sale price of new detached homes in the whole Metro Toronto area had risen to \$352,635 in December 1988. That is covering the 24 municipalities in the greater Metro region. For all types of houses, it is up to a total of \$237,114 as of December 1988. In effect, most of the residents of the city of Toronto and many in the outlying municipalities have been priced out of the market. Those who do not own homes have practically no hope of ever gaining that home ownership we are talking about.

It is a very serious problem, and I still would like to ask the minister to tell us at some time why the provincial government, which got out of the business of building houses in 1975 under the previous government, has not decided to get back into the business of building houses, because it is a well-known, well-researched fact that the private sector does not produce affordable housing, especially when there is a shortage.

They want to put their bucks where the bucks get a big bang. While they may say they are interested in providing affordable housing, it turns out that what they provide is immediately bid up because they are two- or three-bathroom places with two- or three-car garages and so on. There just is no affordable housing coming from the private sector, and it will not come from the private sector because of the nature of the industry. It is going to put its investment where it can make the most money.

In the meantime, the number of the homeless is growing in the cities. There are 10,000 to 20,000 in Toronto. They are hardly being

considered at all, because they are considered outside the housing demand market. They are considered good enough to house in emergency shelters, but that does not get them homes.

Boarding homes are being closed down because the price of houses is going up so much. Therefore, there are more and more homeless people. I sent a note to the minister in the last week about a boarding house operator who rents two houses in my riding. She pays \$1,000 for each and provides affordable housing for 12 singles in those two homes.

But now the fire marshal has said that she must upgrade her fire doors. She already has fire doors which she put in three years ago. She is agreeable to meeting the standards if they will give her some time and some assistance through the home ownership renovation plan, but she cannot get any assistance because she is not the owner of the houses. So she is going to have to close down those 12 units for boarding home people.

I would like to ask the minister if she can tell me how we can keep those 12 housing units in existence. The woman is quite willing to carry on if she can get her fire doors paid for somehow. They are going to cost \$4,000, so she needs at least some financial assistance or loans.

These are the sorts of unsolved problems that are adding to our housing crisis. Therefore, it seems to me that we want more answers from the minister about what actions she is going to take.

The one thing she has put a lot of stress on is that she has made eight sites of provincial land available for housing. They have been released, and five of them are in Metro, but we have not heard what kind of deals are going to be made on these sites, whether they are with the city or with the churches. We welcome all these moves to involve the city or to involve Cardinal Carter. We have not heard of Conrad Black being involved yet. Apparently he is just thinking about the poor at this moment, but a great many of the poor are unhoused.

These sites have been announced affecting large tracts of provincial land, but we have had no details on the mix of housing that will go into those lands. We have no details on the type of ownership that will be provided, whether it will be mainly private, whether some of it will be co-operative, whether some of it will be special housing for singles or special housing for handicapped groups.

We have no details on any of those. We do not know what the down payments will be, what amenities will be provided for people in areas that are largely underserved in some cases. We

have no details on the size of the subsidies that will be given, either on the land or the amenities, and to whom those subsidies will go.

We have seen some of the federal housing deals, when Ottawa gave a tract of land to the city for some housing. This was part of the Downsview airport. We find the land is being used to provide houses for \$600,000 and over. That is hardly affordable housing. We hope the deals that are worked out for each of these five tracts will be much more dedicated to providing affordable housing according to the minister's definition, in which housing does not take more than 30 per cent of a person's income, unless she is going to change the definition.

We have also seen what happened in the case where the federal government gave a special low interest rate for townhouses. There is one project right in my own riding. It was found that the low interest rate ended after about seven years. At that time, the home owner was faced with either a tremendous increase in his interest rate, probably a doubling of it, or he had the option of selling the house.

Because seven years had gone by, the price had risen greatly in that period, and many of them just sold out at the higher price and made a nice capital gain. The new owner was left with a home that was not really a bargain in any way, with a very high interest rate, but he had to find housing of some kind, so he bought this in preference to buying some other private detached house or townhouse that was available.

That means the subsidy is really just a one-time subsidy. The minister has to prevent that kind of sale of houses that have received special subsidies for five or 10 years, because she is then not turning over her stock of affordable housing. There have to be safeguards built into the housing that is put into these tracts of land.

Mr. Elliot: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order: It is my understanding that you set time aside for the critic from the official opposition to make his comments when he comes back, next time we come at these estimates. Because of that and the promise that the minister would reply to that, I believe we are into the rotation.

I think the member who is speaking has made some very good points in her comments so far. But since we are in committee of the whole House, I think what we should be doing here is focusing on one question at a time, because we are specifically in the rotation.

I would like to know what the answer is to the retrofit question, for example, where the two

apartment buildings need fire doors, because I have a similar type of problem in my area.

I think if we focus on one question at a time and give other people in the chamber a chance to get in on the action here, it would be better than having a comment that looks like it may take the rest of the time that is available today. In fact, we may not get back to these questions for an answer at another time.

1720

Ms. Bryden: On the point of order, Mr. Chairman: I am just coming to my main question, but I thought I would give the background about these housing deals because they are what concern me particularly and what is going to be in them. But I could phrase my question more precisely, if you like, at this point.

The Deputy Chairman: The member for Beaches-Woodbine has the floor to make comments or questions. I interpret what she is doing as commenting and, now she indicates, leading to a question, which is within the rules.

Ms. Bryden: With regard to these proposals or these deals that are going to have to be developed possibly by two and maybe three levels of government, that is, municipal and provincial and possibly federal, if they are also going to assist, I think we have to make sure that these deals are not done behind closed doors.

The proposals as to how the land will be used and what sort of subsidies there will be—and all the other things I have asked questions about—must be made public and the residents of the municipality must be given an opportunity to discuss them and to be consulted about the kind of housing they want in the community.

There is no doubt that these land uses are going to require a great deal of municipal spending as well on services, recreational facilities and that sort of thing. There must be public consultation, public meetings and publication of the proposals so that we get the best possible use of these parcels of land that have been made available.

I will say that this has not been done in the past by most levels of government. When they did make land available, it was usually made available either to a nonprofit group or to a private developer and the details were settled mainly behind closed doors.

I would like to ask the minister if she is prepared to set up this sort of working out of the deals that will be necessary for providing housing on these eight provincial sites. Will she consider as part of her proposals for those sites some new public housing built by the province of Ontario? I think that is the only way we are going to increase

the supply of public housing, notwithstanding what is being done by nonprofit groups.

I will also ask her what she is going to do for these nonprofit groups that cannot afford any parcels of land that so far have been offered to them in Metropolitan Toronto. They have projects approved and ready to go, but they cannot find the land at a good price, especially the way it is going up so fast. That is the holdup on nonprofit housing, I understand. That is part of the whole question of how we are going to get more affordable housing through these various deals.

I also hope that she will either address the boarding house question that I raised or at least undertake to look into it. The deadline for starting the new fire doors is March 1.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I thank the member opposite for her comments and her questions. Let me begin with the end and then move back to the beginning of her comments.

Regarding the question she asked about the use of government land, I think she will be very pleased by what I have to say, but I have said it before. We have quite a lot of provincial government surplus land and we will be releasing sites on a site-by-site basis.

Our plans go like this. As a site gets released and as we announce publicly that this is a site for discussion for building affordable homes on, and we are going to be using our government land for that purpose, one thing that governs our decision-making is our stated commitment that at least 35 per cent of the units on a specific piece of land will be affordable. We already have a benchmark figure, which is at the very least there, that 35 per cent of the units built on our provincial land will be affordable.

What that means in practice is some mix of nonprofit housing plus market housing of the affordable price range. So regarding our land that is provincially owned, which we are releasing into the building process, 35 per cent of the units built on that land will be affordable. Depending on the particular location and the realities of that particular piece of land, it will be some mix that will get to at least 35 per cent affordable. The member need have no concern that this will not be met. It will be met.

If there is any piece of government land which is surplus and which is not used in this way, if it is sold, the money that will be received for that will go into the housing development fund, to fund other housing-related issues and to improve the situation of housing in the province.

I understand the member's concern about an open process. We have made a commitment that the lands that we are releasing will go through a normal development process. The member knows that a normal development process involves a public meeting, involves public discussions with the community groups who live in the area of the piece of land and with other interested people, about what is going on that land, how it will be built and how it fits with the existing community.

In regard to the two concerns which the member has raised in talking about land—that the land be used for the benefit of the people of the province and, in particular, that it be used for the benefit of people who need help with their housing—our commitment is that at least 35 per cent of the units built on our land will be affordable in some mix which will involve nonprofit housing plus housing that people can get on their own but which is for moderate-income people, and also the planning process will be open.

That is what is going on right now on the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital site. It will be happening and is happening on other sites. More will be happening of this sort, and I think the member should be pleased about that because we want this process to be a planning process.

Let me remind the member of the crucial goal here: that is to build communities of mixed income. We believe it is healthier for people to live in communities of mixed income rather than segregating groups by income, whatever that income is. We believe it is healthier to build a mix of housing, types and incomes. That is the reason we have taken this approach on government land.

That leads me to an answer to her first concern. She raised, in her comments, the problem—or what she said is the problem—of the fact that the provincial government no longer builds public housing. That was a very conscious and rational decision. The public housing that was built in this province was built for only one income in the community, and that was for people of low income.

The government made a decision that when we built housing in the future—and this is provincial housing, in the sense that the province offers the guarantee for the building process and it is the province's money, or the province and the federal government together which subsidize the cost of rental in nonprofit housing—what we do when we build nonprofit housing is we build mixed-income communities. Each project, each

mixed-income community that we are building under nonprofit housing has people of different incomes in it.

It has people on it who need lots of help with subsidy and we provide that; it has people in it who need less help with subsidy and we provide that, and it has people who need no help with subsidy at all, who are perfectly able to write their monthly rent cheque. What we then do is build a community with mixed income. That is the goal. The commitment to maintaining this mixed-income philosophy is very crucial because we want to build communities where people can live together in harmony, and we can have this mixed-income way of doing it.

In regard to the member's concern about the boarding home, I can tell her that I will look into the specific issue that she mentioned and give her a response. But we do have a low-rise rehabilitation program, which is available for rooming houses as well as apartment buildings and other buildings, to upgrade the standards of those buildings. If the member wants details about the low-rise rehabilitation program, I can give that to her.

The low-rise rehabilitation program is administered by the municipality. What happens is that we give resources to municipalities that are willing to work with us to upgrade and maintain the quality of our low-rise stock. Then the municipalities have the grants available because of our giving those resources to individual projects that need to be upgraded in order to be up to standard.

Among the concerns we are trying to meet are the building code and safety requirements. This sounds as if the rooming house might indeed fit into this category. That is the kind of thing the low-rise rehabilitation program is meant to do: to make sure that the plumbing, wiring, windows and basic services are in good shape. Safety, of course, is one of the issues.

The other issue that the member raised is the whole question of boarding homes. Let me say that one of the things our Homes Now program has, which I think makes it very innovative, is that we are saying that we want people to have homes. We want them built but we are also willing to consider very seriously buying existing housing and converting it to the nonprofit mode so that people have more housing choices.

Among those options are nonprofit groups buying homes or houses or buildings or apartment buildings, turning them into rooming homes and having that as a choice for people who

are single and do not need a large space in which to live.

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We are trying to be very flexible about the actual needs out there, because the people out there are very different from each other and have very different needs. The Homes Now program is meant to do that.

The other issue the member raised was the nonprofit groups and the need for land for nonprofit groups. Let me tell the member for Beaches-Woodbine that one of the things we do to recognize the cost of land is that the maximum unit price for the building, which we do on the nonprofits all over the province, is adjusted to reflect differential land costs all over the province. It is adjusted regularly to deal with the increasing costs. We have also instituted, in the time I have been Minister of Housing, a land loan guarantee fund that has enabled many, many nonprofit groups, when they find a piece of land, to get their hands on it, nail it down and hang on to it until they are ready to get into the building process.

Our loan guarantee fund has enabled large numbers of nonprofit groups to have land and to keep it, to hang on to it, and not be penalized for how hard it is to get land, until the building process can begin. It has made a significant difference. If there is a nonprofit group in the member's riding that is interested and has this problem, please invite it to get in touch with us. We will tell them all about the land loan guarantee fund. That is one of the ways in which we are trying to deal with the shortage-of-land question, especially in the major metropolitan areas.

The final thing I want to say is that government lands are another way of dealing with the need for land of nonprofit groups. We have made our commitment to make sure at least 35 per cent of the units built on our land are affordable. We fully expect that with many of these parcels of land in which we are engaged in the development process, there will be some nonprofit groups involved. Some of the building will be nonprofit building and that will help with that particular project.

Ms. Bryden: With regard to the boarding home, I think the operator, who is not the owner of the two houses in which she provides the boarding home, has inquired both at the ministry and at city hall and has been told an operator is not eligible for these funds. It would have to be the owner who would have to undertake the building and accept the loan. The owner is just

not interested. He could rent those houses at \$1,000 a month to anybody else and possibly hold them for a speculator some time later, but the boarding home would be gone. Perhaps she would look into that angle of whether the legislation could extend to an operator, who is a successful operator.

With regard to the minister's general reply that she is aiming at mixed housing and a mix of incomes and so on, I do not think she is quite correct that the previous public housing buildings built under the previous government were entirely for the poor or for low incomes. They had a range of income groups they would accept in order to achieve some mix, but of course, as the shortage of housing has increased, the housing authority has had to put more and more of the people who need subsidy into the limited stock of provincial housing, so any attempt to have a range of income has disappeared because there is no new subsidized housing available at the provincial level.

Then she mentions she is aiming at a mix of 35 per cent of affordable housing. In view of the great housing shortage, particularly in the metropolitan area and these 24 municipalities, I am not sure that is a high enough target to aim at, and then to be servicing a market that is not in desperate need of affordable housing to the extent of 65 per cent.

Also, we can obtain more diversification by providing housing for different kinds of groups, not necessarily income groups. We could have some units for people with special handicaps, such as the blind or the deaf. We could have units for people who want to set up a group for one particular ethnic group, which would probably be of mixed incomes. But to say that the private sector can develop the other 65 per cent on some terms that may or may not be set by a public meeting or by the consultation process I am recommending is rather sweeping.

I think the minister is going to find, first, that there will not be enough safeguards against the second owner of any of those houses selling and making a profit. We have to have those safeguards. Second, I must admit I am somewhat disillusioned about the public participation process that has grown up under the Planning Act, particularly in the city of Toronto.

I have had a great deal to do with engaging in that participation process over the last 20 years and I must say that I and a lot of other people feel it has become a sham. The notices to the public are inadequate.

They had a big meeting in Toronto this week on the new official plan, which has to be reviewed every 15 years. They gave us six or seven days notice of this meeting to study a huge report on what the review was going to cover, with no specific recommendations before us. They spent three hours hearing delegations talking about this, but it was not focused because there were no recommendations, no proposals of anything that could be sorted out and discussed in that one night.

Really, even if they had given adequate notice, the feeling over the past two or three years in the city of Toronto is that the public participation process is a hoax in that people are allowed to come to make their statement in a three-hour meeting such as the one last week, but the people who are sitting at the table around the council chamber are not listening. They have made their plans ahead of time. Their planning departments have made up their minds ahead of time. If they are asked to make new studies, they make them, but what the residents are asking for seldom appears in the new studies and what comes out is a plan that bears little relationship to what the community meetings demanded.

I think that is true of the 1976 official plan for Toronto, where they got much too high allowances for land use. Then the bonus system came in and that was never really discussed. We have to overcome this alienation of the people from the planning process. While the Planning Act was revised in 1975, it was not revised enough to make sure you would have genuine public consultation and genuine public participation in the decision-making process. I think that is a real challenge facing the minister.

I have just one other thing. I understand the land loan guarantee funds run out rapidly. Whether they are sufficient to meet all the needs, I do not know, but there must be some means of getting suitable land as soon as possible for housing groups, particularly a lot of church groups that are ready to go on nonprofit housing, and not delay it further because the fund has run out for this year. Could the minister comment on those points.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: As to the issue in the riding of the member for Beaches-Woodbine, of course I will take a look at it, but I should tell her that our low-rise rehabilitation program requires matching funds from the owner of the building. That, I think, is a perfectly reasonable way to proceed. The other concern is basically that the owner of the building does have rights about what can be

done to a building he or she owns. That really is a serious issue. But I will take a look at that.

As to the issue of housing people with special needs in mixed-income communities, I think the member will be cheered to hear that we indeed do that. One of the target groups we are always aiming at is people with special needs, particularly people with either physical or mental disabilities. A proportion of our housing goes to people with special needs. When nonprofit groups come forward with their plans, we pay particular attention to the ones that are offering to house people with special needs in an integrated community, so that, for example, some of the nonprofit projects that are most successful and most pleasing are ones in which a group comes forward and says: "We want to build 100 units. We want 10 of them to be for people who need wheelchair access."

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We do this as a matter of course now. We even have a special Project 3000: 3,000 units specifically for people with special needs. We are now in the process of trying to integrate special needs people into the communities we are building. I take the member's point, but I should cheer her by telling her we already do that and are prepared to continue.

Ms. Bryden: But there's still a 35 per cent ceiling. Why not raise the ceiling?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I do not know which ceiling the member is referring to. If she is talking about 35 per cent affordable housing on government land, that is a floor, not a ceiling. At the site that is being proposed right now, the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital site, we are looking at much more than that; 35 per cent is our minimum, not our maximum of affordable housing on any given site.

If I may continue to respond to the questions the member has asked, another element of the mix she is concerned about of course is ethnicity. I am sure the member knows that a very active part of the nonprofit production in this province is undertaken by people of various cultural communities. One of the first things many cultural communities wish to do is build seniors' housing for people in their communities who no longer wish to maintain their own homes and would like to live in that kind of situation.

There are also various forms of nonprofit housing being built by very large numbers of groups of various cultural communities in this province. That is already going on—that is exactly the kind of mix I am committed to—and will continue to go on. I think that is just fine and

a very healthy way to make sure we get mixed communities in this province. I agree with the member. I thought she would be cheered to know we are indeed doing this and will continue to do it.

With regard to the other question about the planning process, I hope she will refer more specific questions to the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Eakins) who is responsible for the planning process. But I cannot resist pointing out to the member that if she is concerned about public participation in the planning process in the city of Toronto, several members of her party were elected to Toronto city council. I assume that if she is concerned that the planning process be genuine, open and responsive to the community, she will raise her concerns with them as well as in this House.

I think municipal people are elected to be responsive to the people in their communities. The planning process is there to indicate the way in which we do that work. The quality of attention paid is very much the responsibility of municipal councils. I believe that concern to which the member is referring had better be raised as well with members of municipal councils.

We have a planning process that requires openness, consultation and discussion. I believe that is a healthy way to proceed and we intend to do that with our own process on government lands.

Ms. Bryden: There are things in the provincial Planning Act that inhibit the planning process. For example, the amount of time a demolition can be delayed is very low and does not give time for community groups to act in cases like that. We tried to amend the Planning Act when it went through in 1975 to improve that, but it has not been done. It is still the minister's responsibility to enhance the demolition laws to prevent sudden conversions to either condominiums or nonhousing uses. That is a weakness the province has to cure.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I can respond to the member only by saying that the Planning Act is the responsibility of my colleague the Minister of Municipal Affairs, but I should point out that the Rental Housing Protection Act, which I introduced into this House not very long ago, is meant to protect buildings against exactly what the member is talking about, either conversion or demolition and taking them out of rental use.

It seems to me the protections we are going to have in this new act are going to make a significant difference. They already have in the

version that has been enacted for the past two years. So some of the concerns the member has raised do come under the Rental Housing Protection Act. As to amendments to the Planning Act, I am always pleased to hear about them, but it seems to me those had best be addressed to the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Mr. Cousens: I want to ask some questions on vote 1903, item 2, having to do with nonprofit housing. The number of units being created through Project 3000; Homes Now; where the minister is having \$2 billion of Canada pension plan funds available to source mortgage financing; the announcement of that program from the April budget which was made on October 25, where the Ministry of Housing's press release stated the government would achieve the 30,000 goal in three to five years; then there is the assisted housing policy committed to \$72.6 million to build 20,000 nonprofit units by 1988; the promised \$103 million to fund 3,600 units of nonprofit housing—

What I am really asking the minister is how many nonprofit housing units were completed in 1988. How many units does this represent in total? How many of the 20,000 units promised in the December 1985 assured housing initiative were completed by the 1988 deadline?

Does the minister want me to pose the several questions I have and then she can give her answer?

How many of the 6,700 federally-provincially financed units were completed in 1988? Fewer than 4,000 of the 30,000 units promised under Homes Now have been approved since the program was announced in the April budget. At this rate, the most optimistic prediction is 20,000 units in five years, with no guarantee that they will all be completed by 1993. Will the minister explain how she intends to meet the 30,000 new rental units target?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: Of the 30,000 units announced in Homes Now, about 3,000 were announced in a bulk allocation. About 300 beyond that have also been committed. The honourable member will be hearing more about the rest of those units relatively shortly. Those are in the process of being allocated right now.

Of the other units that have been committed, I can give him more explicit answers in the next day or so—I guess it will probably have to be next week—but there have been significant numbers of nonprofit units built in 1988. I do not have an exact number for him this instant, but I should point out to him that one of things that has been happening is that as a result of our land loan

guarantee fund and the whole gearing up of the nonprofit sector, the process of building has been increasing. It has been a cumulative process and it has been going more quickly in the past year than in the year before. I will get the member the exact numbers as soon as I have them, which may have to be the next day.

Mr. Cousens: Would the minister consider renaming this program Homes Later? It is called Homes Now and it is not as fast as I thought it might be.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I would be very glad to respond to that suggestion. I am happy to keep our program named Homes Now, because I remember very clearly that when we introduced some of our housing initiatives last year and I had the pleasure of having the member for Markham as my critic, he said that the Peterson government was premature and moving too quickly. I am very pleased to say that this government is committed to making change happen as quickly as possible. We are speeding up our achievement. I would like those homes built as quickly as possible and as soon as possible. I am happy with the name we have. I hope the member opposite has changed his mind about the so-called prematurity of our previous actions.

Mr. Cousens: There are so many things that are happening. One can take anything one wants out of context and put any kind of meaning one wants into it. I would like to ask the minister how many nonprofit groups have applied for mortgage financing through this program?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I will be glad to give that specific answer to the member in the next day or so.

Mr. Cousens: Could the minister please explain why she underspent her 1987-88 budget allocation by \$6 million when, as she has repeatedly informed us, there is a crisis in affordable housing?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I am pleased to tell the member opposite that this government has spent more on housing than any government in the past. In fact, the previous government was spending about \$180 million on social housing when they were on this side of the House. We are spending \$360 million today, so we have doubled our spending on social housing in this province.

I think the member opposite should know that if we were to compare records, the previous government would really not stand up very well. This government has doubled spending on social housing since we have been here. I consider that

to be a major achievement. The kinds of projects that we have been doing have gone very far—

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Mr. Cousens: I did not ask for this. The question was, why did she underspend her 1987-88 budget by \$6 million? She has not answered that and she is going off on a tangent. Can you bring her back to order?

The Deputy Chairman: The minister will respond as she sees fit. If the member is not satisfied with the answer, he has the right to ask another question.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I am pleased to answer the member's question as to why we did not get to spend all of the money that we had assigned. It seems to me very appropriate that this government has assigned a lot of resources to housing because we took the area so seriously and continue to take it so seriously. We have been willing to spend a lot more money than the previous government was willing to spend.

One of the things that happened in that year was that there were some delays experienced by some nonprofit groups in finding sites and getting started in the building process. I mentioned earlier in my answer to the member that is one of the reasons we are now speeding up the process of getting housing built, because the program has speeded up and nonprofit groups are really working in very high gear.

As a result of those delays in getting sites, we indicated that we wanted to meet the problems that nonprofit groups were meeting. That is why we instituted the land loan guarantee fund which I also talked about with the member for Beaches-Woodbine. The very fact of that land loan guarantee fund has made it possible for more groups to get their housing built on time and to use our resources better. The land use policy on our use of government lands has been one of the ways in which we have addressed trying to make more land available to nonprofit groups to help them in the building process.

One of the other problems that we face we have tried to address in our new Homes Now program. In the shared program—the one shared between the federal government and the province, the one in which we are committed to building 6,700 units a year together, although the federal government seems to be interested in putting financial caps on that program—is designed in a very tight way. It is designed with an entry date, a date by which projects have to say yes, they are ready to go, and a date by which, if they have not gotten started, the whole process

has to start all over again and they lose their funding.

That program was designed jointly with the federal government. We have tried repeatedly to get the federal government to streamline that program and to make it more flexible in order that the exigencies of the calendar year will not stop good projects from going ahead just because they did not get to a particular point in the race to get finished by a particular date.

When we designed our own program, the Homes Now program, which is a unilateral provincial program, we tried to meet those objections which were given to us by nonprofit groups by designing a much more open, more responsive, more flexible program which does not have a starting date and a closing date by which we have to fill in all the little forms and get everything done, so that the groups that are in the building process do not have their funding yanked, but can continue to build in the year in which they are planning to build.

What we have done is we have learned from the problems that we had under the federal-provincial program and designed our own program to be much more responsive. The member opposite shakes his head. Let me just—

Mr. Cousens: You didn't answer my question. You've gone off on another tangent. You're not answering the question. You're looking at the clock so you can run it out. Mr. Chairman, she's looking at the clock. It's more words and no action.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: Does the member wish to ask me another question?

The Deputy Chairman: Would the member for Markham—

Mr. Cousens: I was trying to get the answer as to why she underspent by \$6 million. Maybe I can add a supplementary and another one because she is rambling and not answering.

What was the total amount of the subsidies the minister paid nonprofit corporations in 1988 to enable them to charge rents geared to the incomes of tenants?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I can get that number for the member tomorrow.

I am surprised that he reacts to my answers the way he does. I thought I was giving him the fullest answer I knew how. I understand the member's interest in housing is deep and long-standing. He wants detail and information, and I am trying to give it to him.

Mr. Cousens: Again, on vote 1903, on tenant support services activity, I want to know how

many people were served by this program in 1988.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The member continues to be fascinated by numbers. I promise to have the numbers for him the next time we meet.

The Deputy Chairman: If I might suggest, questions requiring that kind of detail perhaps should be given in writing so that they can be looked up by the staff. I do not know how a minister can respond to a question of that nature.

Mr. Cousens: In fact, that is why the minister has staff there to assist her. Some of these are technical. I pointed to item 4. Here is a program that the ministry is spending money on. I think it is important for us to have some idea of how many people are helped by it, and I am surprised the minister is not able to give us an answer on that now. It is a program the minister is proud of. She put it in her estimates. Maybe she can just tell us how many people were served.

We are willing to wait until next week, because I know the minister may have to go back and do more research. If she does, we will still want the answers. I would rather have a good answer than a poor one.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I am delighted to give the member a general answer. Tenant support services, our line in the ministry budget, refers to the services that we give to the tenants of Ontario Housing Corp. housing. We have 84,000 units, and we estimate that the number of tenants in those units is about 250,000. What I cannot do for the member is tell him which of those 250,000 people actually actively used the tenant support services in the past year, but they are available to 250,000 people.

Mr. Cousens: I guess that really points out that the minister ought to have some kind of understanding of just how well that program is working. That is really the kind of question I am asking. Has the minister done some surveys to see just how many tenants are using the service, how happy they are with it? That is the kind of thing that comes out of the question "Just how many?"

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I would be pleased to tell the member for Markham, which does not have much Ontario Housing Corp. housing at this point, that we did a survey of our tenants. It was a tenant satisfaction survey. I will be pleased to report the results of that survey to the member,

but we, of course, keep in touch with our tenants regularly.

We have a newsletter for them in some of the areas and we also have done a survey of tenant satisfaction on all areas of the buildings which they occupy, the physical structure, the community supports and all the services that are available to them. So, we have a very finely detailed study about what our tenants like about what we are doing and what they would like to see improved. We do that because we want to know what they want and we want to keep them as well served as we possibly can.

It seems to me very appropriate that, as the ministry which is responsible for housing 250,000 citizens of this province, we take soundings occasionally to discover how well we are doing and how we can do better.

Mr. Cousens: I think it is good that the minister is going to share copies of those surveys and the results she has had. Will that be something she will table with us as soon as possible? I think that would be very helpful. I am glad she is doing that. I am just wondering just how many of these surveys she is doing. That information would be valuable information, I am sure.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: We are prepared to release the information that is ready at this point.

On motion by Hon. Ms. Hošek, the committee of the whole House reported progress.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Fulton: Pursuant to standing order 13, I would like to indicate the business of the House for the coming week.

On Monday, February 20, we will be dealing with the Ministry of Housing estimates.

On Tuesday, February 21, we will deal with second reading of Bills 192, 197, 134, 135, 169 and 128. The votes will be stacked to Wednesday at 5:45 p.m.

On Wednesday, February 22, we will continue the adjourned debate on second reading of Bill 147.

On Thursday, February 23, in the morning we will deal with private members' business, ballot items 64 and 65. In the afternoon we will continue with the Ministry of Housing estimates.

The House adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breaugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)
Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health (Orléans L)
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)
Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)
 Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC)
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)
Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)
Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A., Speaker (Perth L)
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)
Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L)
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)

Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)
Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)
 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)
Grandmaître, Hon. Bernard C., Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)
 Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)
 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)
Hošek, Hon. Chaviva, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)
 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)
 Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L)
Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G., Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L)
 Kormos, Peter (Welland-Thorold NDP)
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)
Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)
 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)
 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)
 Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)
 MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)
 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)
Mancini, Hon. Remo, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)
 Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)
 Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP)
 Matrundola, Gino (Willowdale L)
 McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)
 McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)
 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)
 McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)
 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)
McLeod, Hon. Lyn, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)
 Miclash, Frank (Kenora L)

Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)
 Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)
 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)
Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier,
 Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Eco-
 nomics and Minister of Financial Institutions
 (Brant-Haldimand L)
Oddie Munro, Hon. Lily, Minister of Culture
 and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)
O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and
 Recreation (Quinte L)
 O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)
 Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)
Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government
 Services (Ottawa Centre L)
 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)
Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and Presi-
 dent of the Council and Minister of Inter-
 governmental Affairs (London Centre L)
 Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)
Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship
 (Scarborough-Agincourt L)
 Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of
 the Committees of the Whole House (Prescott
 and Russell L)
 Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)
 Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)
 Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)
 Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)
 Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)
 Rae, Bob (York South NDP)
Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional
 Services (Timiskaming L)
 Ray, Michael C., Deputy Chairman of the
 Committees of the Whole House (Windsor-
 Walkerville L)
 Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)
 Reycraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)

Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and
 Food (Huron L)
 Roberts, Marietta L. D. (Elgin L)
 Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)
 Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)
Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General
 (St. George-St. David L)
 Smith, David W. (Lambton L)
Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General
 (London South L)
 Sola, John (Mississauga East L)
Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour
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 South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)
 Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)
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No. 149

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



First Session, 34th Parliament
Monday, February 20, 1989

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday, February 20, 1989

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The world is full of irony. Today, when we have learned that a policeman has been shot, it follows by just a couple of days the announcement that the Canadian murder rate is at a 20-year low in this country. I want to make a statement regarding capital punishment today.

I was in Florida when the morbid fascination and delight at the death of multimurderer Ted Bundy took place in a state where the number of murders is escalating at an incredible rate, even though it has had a very highly publicized death penalty for some time. It was with great pleasure that I noticed that our murder rate had dropped so significantly that not one police officer died last year in this country, a country which has again turned away from the death penalty as a deterrent.

To all those people who had thought of it as such, I hope this argues very strongly against the notion that it should be used in those terms. For those people who believe that somehow it should be kept in terms of an eye for an eye or who believe, as the head of the police association said, that there has to be a place for vicious animals who cannot be rehabilitated, I would say to them that we have no argument. There is no discussion that can take place on that kind of basis. For those of us who wish a safe society, we have found a good solution in this country, far better than those countries which have opted for the death penalty.

PROVINCIAL-MUNICIPAL RELATIONS

Mr. McCague: I read two items recently which explain why Ontario's municipalities are disillusioned with the Liberal government. The first noted that the only thing worse than the inaction of the government has been its actions. The second stated that the local option has become a stylish way for the province to cop out on thorny issues.

Ontario's municipalities, victims of both Liberal lethargy and buck-passing, would heartily endorse those opinions. From housing to infrastructural renewal, courtroom security, Sunday shopping and education financing, the Liberal government's idea of leadership that works has been to toss the matters to the municipalities and say, "Here, you lead."

To make matters worse, the Liberals have cut back on the financial resources municipalities require to do the province's job for it. Instead of freezing unconditional grants, the Liberal government should freeze all attempts to slough off its responsibilities on to municipal governments.

It should also stop treating municipalities, as one official of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario said, like a ministry branch office. Our municipal governments deserve more than high-handed paternalism disguised as a respect for local autonomy.

HOMEMAKERS' PENSIONS

Ms. Poole: In December 1983, the federal government's special committee on pension reform recommended that the government implement a homemakers' pension. In a nationally televised debate on women's issues in August 1984, Brian Mulroney stated that a homemakers' pension could be implemented "in an evolutionary way, without the cost being unbearable."

"In fact," he said, "a saving could be realized."

More than four years later, during the 1988 leaders' debate, the Prime Minister tried to explain his inaction on this promise by stating, "We couldn't do everything overnight when we came in and inherited a very bad fiscal situation."

There is a very fundamental inconsistency in these two statements. In 1984 women were told that a homemakers' pension could ultimately save the government money. In 1988 they were told the federal government could not afford to implement that homemakers' pension.

Approximately three million women in Canada are waiting for pension protection. The Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) has stated that he has raised this matter during meetings of the federal Finance minister and the provincial treasurers. The time has come for the Prime

Minister to stop making excuses and to act on his promises in both 1984 and 1988, promises to implement a homemakers' pension. The women of Ontario are waiting.

NATIVE PEOPLE AND THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Mr. Hampton: The Race Relations and Policing Task Force completed its hearings in Thunder Bay on the weekend. While in Thunder Bay, they heard about some very disturbing events involving native people and the criminal justice system.

For example, Shirley O'Connor of the Ontario Native Women's Association spoke of killings left uninvestigated and of individuals lost in the bush who froze to death because police would not conduct a search. Sara Melvin, representing 33 communities in the Sioux Lookout area, described seeing police batons with the words "For Indians, hold here" inscribed on them.

The problems that native people have encountered with our criminal justice system are not new. They have in fact gone on for far too long. The Attorney General (Mr. Scott) has stated on various occasions that he intends to address the plight of native people in our criminal justice system, yet we have seen precious little other than unkept promises from the Attorney General.

We want to discuss many of these issues in some detail with the Attorney General. We have been waiting for some time for the Ministry of the Attorney General estimates and the native affairs estimates to begin so that we could examine in some detail the expenditures and programs of these ministries as they relate to our native people, yet the Attorney General has postponed these estimates week after week. When will they happen?

ORILLIA SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Mr. McLean: My statement is directed to the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) and concerns the proposed development of Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital.

The minister knows that a consultants' report commissioned by the hospital's board of directors recommends the construction of a second health care facility in Orillia. The existing building would be used for chronic care and the proposed second campus would be used for acute care. In fact, three separate consultants have recommended the construction of this second campus.

The consultants' report was sent to the minister in January 1988 and the minister said the final decision on the proposed second campus would be forthcoming in March 1988. We are now approaching March 1989 and the minister has still not announced her decision. The hospital's board of directors is close to wrapping up its \$5-million fund-raising campaign. They must know if they should extend this campaign to support the construction of a second hospital campus in Orillia.

I would urge the minister to meet with the board of directors of Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital as soon as possible to clear up the confusion surrounding the proposed construction of a new health care facility in Orillia. That meeting should take place within the next few days.

CAREERMOBILE

Mr. Mahoney: I would like to inform my colleagues in the House about a very successful program that has been launched by the Peel Board of Education.

On November 2, 1988, the Careermobile, which is a mobile career counselling centre, opened at its first location, the Port Credit Secondary School. It is a mobile career assessment and information centre and it is staffed by a career assessment officer and three technicians. They work with and enhance existing guidance programs that are offered in the secondary schools. The cost for this 40-foot by 12-foot trailer is jointly shared by the Peel Board of Education, the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission and corporate donations.

I recently toured the Careermobile during its three-week visit to Erindale Secondary School and was very impressed with the available computer, video and print materials. These materials include information on over 1,000 different occupations, education and training programs, job search skills and nontraditional career options, as well as student job opportunities. I feel it is a very worthwhile and innovative program which will assist our students in determining their future goals.

1340

Today there are so many various avenues to research for a career decision and very often our students do not have the facilities to investigate all these avenues as well as the opportunity to sit down with a counsellor to help them.

During a three-week stay at various schools throughout Peel, the Careermobile is open for the community as well as the student population.

HOUSE PRICES

Mr. Laughren: Last week in this House, I asked the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) which community had the fastest-escalating house prices and he tried to tell me it was not Brantford. As a matter of fact, it was indeed Brantford. I used the figures from the Canadian Real Estate Association. The Treasurer used the numbers for the months from January to December; we used December to December, 12 months, which seems to me a more logical way to go about it.

Even when we used the Treasurer's way of figuring it out, it proves out that Brantford had higher price increases as a percentage than Toronto did last year, so somebody in the Ministry of Treasury and Economics has made a mistake. The fact is that house prices are rising too fast all across the province.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

ONTARIO HYDRO BOND ISSUE

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I hope members will be interested to know that Ontario Hydro successfully floated a \$500-million bond issue in Europe today. The 10-year issue was led by Merrill Lynch Canada Inc. and is the first to be completed by Hydro in Europe since 1984. It carries a coupon of 10 7/8 per cent. Costs associated with this financing are approximately one quarter of one per cent lower than those for an equivalent financing transaction in Canada and constitute a saving of \$1.25 million per year. Ontario Hydro's finance program for 1989 totals approximately \$3.2 billion.

ONTARIO HERITAGE WEEK

Hon. Ms. Oddie Munro: Today marks the start of Ontario Heritage Week 1989. This is a time to celebrate the heritage preserved and reflected in such things as buildings and landmarks.

Beyond these landmarks of the past, we also want to focus on other aspects of our heritage, such as music, folklore and traditions. This broader emphasis reflects the rich diversity of the province's multicultural tradition. This broader perspective is also the basis of the review of the Ontario Heritage Act that is under way.

The importance of the preservation and wise use of our vast cultural heritage, in all the forms in which it exists, has never been more evident. In a rapidly changing world, a sense of who we are as Ontarians is surely critical to the future.

On the occasion of Ontario Heritage Week, I would especially like to thank the hundreds of

thousands of Ontarians in communities across the province who have made the preservation of our heritage their responsibility. I congratulate them for their significant achievements.

RESPONSES

ONTARIO HERITAGE WEEK

Miss Martel: In anticipation of the statement that I knew was going to be made by the Minister of Culture and Communications (Ms. Oddie Munro), I do have a response on behalf of our party. We are pleased to join with the minister in celebrating Ontario Heritage Week. This is a good opportunity for all Ontarians to discover, celebrate and showcase our history and our roots.

Heritage groups will be demonstrating the work they do in various locations throughout the province during this week. Highlighting these activities will serve to make Ontarians aware that who we are today is very much a function of our past, who our ancestors were and how their contributions helped to shape this province.

I hope all members will join their constituents in celebrating the rich and diverse cultural and historical heritage of their communities and of the province as a whole. While our multiculturalism brings unique opportunities for enrichment, the same diversity also presents challenges which we can better face with increased understanding, acceptance and tolerance.

I would also like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the thousands of individuals who work so hard to organize the activities in each community during this special week and throughout the year. Among the thousands of individuals and organizations involved in heritage activities are, of course, the Ontario Heritage Foundation, historical societies, local architectural advisory committees, museums, libraries, archives, schools, etc. These people all deserve our thanks and appreciation, for without their efforts and dedication such events would not be possible.

The preservation of our heritage, both natural and historic, is vitally important. Let all of us keep our heritage and our history alive and vibrant and enjoy this week both as Ontarians and Canadians.

ONTARIO HYDRO BOND ISSUE

Mr. B. Rae: I would have thought that in the interests of accuracy, the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) might have wanted to point out that when he was the critic for the opposition he often used to point out that in borrowing overseas you might save a little bit on the interest from time to time,

but there is also the factor of the changes and fluctuations in the value of the dollar as opposed to the value of the currency in which money is being borrowed.

The Treasurer is then telling us that this leads to an automatic saving of \$1.25 million per year. I would have thought that in the interests of accuracy he might have, at least, added the sentence, "This will, of course, depend on what happens to the dollar and on what happens to other currencies." On these decisions to float in other markets, I would have thought that might have been something that would have been added to the Treasurer's statement.

ONTARIO HERITAGE WEEK

Mr. McLean: I want to respond briefly to the announcement with regard to Ontario Heritage Week. I, for one, want to compliment the minister for making this statement today. I, for many years, have known the value of reflecting on our history and on our past. When you travel around the world and in this great province, you are always looking at a heritage that we should not forget.

There are so many things that I know the minister has funded over the past period of time that are so important to Ontario in maintaining the heritage that we have. We must protect our present and look at the past and our future. When we look at some of the train stations in this province being being torn down and being remodelled to be bus stations and for other purposes, I think it is great that we are maintaining that for the future. We also look at tourism and for people to come here and see what we have in our heritage. That part is very, very important.

I think it is interesting. We will be watching the review with regards to the legislation. There is a lot of history in many of our municipalities. I would hope there would be some help for these municipalities in putting a profile together so that we can maintain and look back at our heritage and see where we have all come from and how we can make Ontario a better place to live.

ONTARIO HYDRO BOND ISSUE

Mr. Runciman: I have a brief response to the announcement regarding the Ontario Hydro bond issue. I am just wondering about the fiscal responsibility of Ontario Hydro, which we so frequently like to talk about and which the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) and his leader used to talk about a number of years ago but certainly do not pursue with any vigour of late.

I want to talk about something that I made the Minister of Energy (Mr. Wong) aware of some time ago in respect of the windfall, if you will, to Ontario Hydro in respect of the value of the Canadian dollar over the past year. In its budget, Ontario Hydro had looked at, I think, about a 75-cent Canadian dollar. The dollar, as we all know, was of significantly higher value than that and this represented a windfall in the neighbourhood of \$150 million to \$200 million for Ontario Hydro in the last fiscal year.

I suggested, along with a number of others in the province, that this be applied to a one-time payment to reduce the significant Ontario Hydro debt, part of which is a United States debt which is in excess of \$9 billion, as the Treasurer will be well aware. To my knowledge, that has not been done. Hopefully, consideration is still being given to that initiative, but we are not optimistic.

The study carried out by Cresap indicated that there are 2,500 redundant managerial employees in just one sector of Ontario Hydro's operations. What is the response of Ontario Hydro to that? "Well, we're going to look at keeping these individuals on through a period of time and finding opportunities for them within Ontario Hydro."

1350

Shortly on the heels of that announcement, we have another indication from Ontario Hydro that it is going to build an approximately \$200-million edifice in North York to house—guess how many Ontario Hydro employees?—2,500, exactly the number identified by Cresap as being redundant: an edifice in North York which is nothing less than a monument to excess.

This Treasurer and government try to convince us that they are fiscally responsible on frequent occasions. We have to wonder about that; but we certainly do not have to wonder about it in respect to Ontario Hydro. It is not the hallmark of that crown corporation, and this government, despite all its rhetoric, has done nothing to change that.

ORAL QUESTIONS

PROPERTY SPECULATION

Mr. B. Rae: I would like to address a question to the Treasurer, who has been musing over the last few days outside this place both to the Toronto Sun editorial board and, indeed, to a great many reporters on Thursday about the wisdom of imposing a land transfer tax increase on every single purchaser of real estate in the province; in fact, he is talking about doubling the land transfer tax.

Since the doubling of that tax would have the effect of increasing the average resale price of somewhere over \$250,000, increasing the cost to that purchaser by a more than \$2,000 tax ripoff, can the Treasurer tell us what possible justice or merit there is in even contemplating a tax increase that will not deal with speculation, that will not focus attention on the real crux of the problem, but will instead punish absolutely every person who is in the housing market?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I have never given even a passing thought to doubling the land transfer tax. I do not intend to do it, and the question is therefore irrelevant.

Mr. B. Rae: I wonder if the Treasurer might tell us then what was on his mind when the Toronto Star on Friday, February 17, reported he said, "an increased land transfer tax could slow speculators who purchase homes and flip them for a profit."

If the Treasurer says he does not have something on his mind, perhaps he would do us the justice of saying what he does have in mind. Again, why is he focusing attention on a land transfer tax when that is a tax that applies to every single purchaser across the board, instead of focusing attention on a tax on land speculation which will deal directly with speculators in the marketplace and not punish everybody and treat all the people out there who are trying to buy a house as if they are some kind of speculators?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I think the honourable member is aware that there are other problems in the development of the general community of Ontario that perhaps he has not brought his mind to bear on; the necessity, for example, of providing infrastructure, sewers, water and so on that the province is providing assistance to municipalities on. This is funded in large measure by the amount of money collected on the land transfer tax.

The honourable member knows that we do not earmark those revenues, but he is aware that as these properties are sold, it provides the province by way of the consolidated revenue fund with the resources to meet those requirements based on these growing communities.

Mr. B. Rae: I am asking the Treasurer to focus specifically on the question I have asked him, not some other question which he might have hoped somebody else might ask him. He has a choice as to what kind of tax he is going to impose or not impose to deal with this question of speculation.

Just to ask the Treasurer to cast his mind to one specific example: He will know that the federal

Tory government sold a 17-hectare site at Wilson Heights Boulevard to a company for \$14.28 million and, two months later, this company resold the property for \$19.8 million, which is a profit of \$5.5 million.

The land transfer tax on this original sale was \$212,675; if doubled, it would take it up that much higher. But whether doubled or not, the company is still left with over \$5 million in speculative gain, gain that is pure speculation, a quick flip of property which was previously public property, the price of which then escalates and goes right through the market as it is flipped again and again.

I want to ask the Treasurer one more time: Why does he not deal with that situation by imposing a very tough and rigorous speculation tax, rather than contemplating increases in the land transfer tax which simply punishes absolutely everybody who decides to try to get in on buying a house? Why does he not choose the effective method?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I am not convinced that the land speculation tax is as effective as the honourable member would point out. However, I did say in response to the question asked by his financial critic, that the Treasury is looking at alternatives in land taxation that may or may not be useful. The fact that the member raises it every day is interesting, but we are reviewing it and we are examining what the effects on the community might be.

It appears to me that the governments in the past have moved in with draconian solutions at about the most inappropriate point in the market. My own view, having lived through this—from the opposition's point of view particularly—was that the land speculation tax, in my judgement, was not effective in the trial that it had here in this jurisdiction.

Mr. Speaker: New question.

Mr. B. Rae: Two years ago the Treasurer was telling us that the heat had gone out of the market.

Mr. Speaker: Question to which minister?

DRUG ABUSE

Mr. B. Rae: In the absence of the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan), I would like to address a question to the Premier. Reports from police, social workers and people who are working on the street provide us with a most disturbing picture of the dramatic increase in the use of cocaine and, in particular, the use of the drug which is a cocaine derivative known as crack.

I want to ask the Premier why it is that, given this dramatic increase in the use of cocaine and

crack and a dramatic fall in the price of both cocaine and crack, there has been really no change and no improvement at all in the provincial facilities for the treatment of people who clearly now have an addiction problem with both these drugs?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I appreciate the honourable member's anecdotal information in that regard. As he knows, we have a very large facility funded by the government, the Addiction Research Foundation; and a number of other programs have been instituted to try to address this problem, both at an enforcement level and at an educational and medical level.

I can tell my honourable friend that the need for facilities for rehabilitation is one of those matters that is constantly under review. Should the government deem that to be necessary, obviously that is what will be done.

Mr. B. Rae: In the report that the Metropolitan Toronto Police made to the Metropolitan Toronto Police Commission last year, in their request for more help and more police officers to deal with this problem, they said there were 24 deaths in Ontario in 1987, 12 of them in Metropolitan Toronto, which in their view were directly caused by cocaine. In 13 other deaths, cocaine was found in the systems of the deceased, along with other drugs. In 17 other deaths in Ontario, cocaine was found in the bloodstream of persons who died from other causes, that is to say stabbing or shooting.

This is not entirely anecdotal evidence. It is evidence that is very firm on the street as to the large number of people who are affected and who, in fact, are killed by the use of these drugs and by crimes associated with these drugs.

The Premier referred to the Addiction Research Foundation. The Addiction Research Foundation has 10 inpatient beds for all youth addiction, that is to say drugs and alcohol. When the Premier talks about the Addiction Research Foundation, is he telling us that he thinks 10 inpatient beds for kids who are addicted to all drugs and alcohol, all those drug problems, are in any sense adequate, even for beginning to touch on this problem?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Certainly that is not the full extent of the government's programs. Some very helpful person under the gallery just handed me a note that may interest my honourable friend:

"The ministry currently is spending \$35.6 million on 149 community-based programs, including detox centres, day and residential treatment and evaluation and counselling services, funds the Addiction Research Foundation

with an annual operating budget of \$32 million, the Donwood Institute and public and psychiatric hospitals. Annual funding for mental health and addiction programs has increased 50 per cent since last year."

That being said—and those are some facts for my honourable friend's consideration—I am not trying to argue that that is enough; we are always looking at ways to upgrade our programming to assist people.

1400

Mr. B. Rae: While the Premier is getting his information from under the gallery, perhaps he could answer these questions. His own report from the member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay (Mr. Black) showed that in 1987 nearly 1,000 Ontarians were treated outside the province for drug-related medical conditions, and even the member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay referred in his report to the terrible shortage of services for young people and the terrible shortage of services in northern Ontario, two specific problems which he said cried out for action.

We are dealing now with a crisis affecting our young people in this province: waiting lists; kids having to go down to the United States; kids going into programs which their families cannot afford and which are not adequately subsidized by the Ontario health insurance plan; costs to families which are running in the thousands of dollars in terms of this treatment. There is a crisis of people who are not getting treatment because the services simply are not available in this province.

Does the Premier recognize the severity of this crisis and what is he prepared to do to see that we begin to get it under control in terms of treatment?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I think the honourable member would say that this government is indeed concerned and has started to implement action as a result of the Black task force.

Mr. B. Rae: Nothing. You have not made one announcement.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: That just is not correct. We have a wide range of programs that are available in a residential community-based area. That is the thrust, as the member knows, of health care delivery of this government and this province. That being said, these matters are constantly under review; if we can improve them, we will.

USE OF MINISTRY AFFILIATION

Mr. Harris: I wonder if the Minister of Housing can tell us why her ministry has given

permission for a member of her ministry staff to use his job with the Ministry of Housing to run a private association with the aim of promoting the use of Smart card technology.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I am sorry. I would like more information about the question that was raised by the member and I will look into it.

Mr. Harris: I am not surprised that she does not know what is going on over in her ministry. That has been demonstrated time and again.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Harris: I have here a business card of Lorne M. Boates, CA, founding president of the Advanced Card Technology Association of Canada. The address is third floor, 777 Bay Street, and the phone number is the ministry phone number. The minister will know that address is the Ministry of Housing address. The phone number is, indeed, the ministry phone number. Yet nowhere on that card does it mention or say anything about the Ministry of Housing.

I wonder if the minister can tell us how she or her deputy would allow a civil servant, whose salary is paid for by the people of Ontario, whose office, phone number and fax number are paid for by the people of Ontario, to work on behalf of a private association which has nothing to do with his housing responsibilities or his responsibilities with her ministry.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: As the member has indicated, this is a matter that I am pleased to investigate. As soon as I have an answer, I will bring it to the House.

Mr. Harris: When the minister is investigating, she might also want to investigate not only his involvement but also the fact that the card says he is the founding president of this organization that is clearly intended not to study the possible use of Smart cards but to promote their use to the government of Ontario, and in all likelihood to the Ministry of Housing of which he is now an employee, at some time in the future.

I also would refer the minister to minutes of the last meeting of the Advanced Card Technology Association of Canada. It was indicated there in the minutes of this meeting that the Ministry of Housing would be prepared to pay the costs of the incorporation of this association. Can the minister explain the reasoning for her ministry to be paying for the incorporation costs of a private organization that has nothing to do with the work of her ministry?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I must say I admire the member opposite's capacity to spin one question into three. I will answer as I answered before. I am pleased to look into the matter, and anything that needs to be said about it I will bring back to the House.

RAPE CRISIS CENTRES

Mr. Jackson: My question is to the Solicitor General. On Thursday of this week, the minister will meet with representatives from several of Ontario's rape crisis centres. As she will recall, last year, based on several questions we raised in this House and based on the closure of two centres and the potential closing of four others, she agreed to review the funding policies for staffing in these centres. In fact, as we know, she only modified the policy, but in reality the access to staffing moneys is as strict as ever in Ontario.

The minister also announced last year that she would request five-year plans in order to stabilize funding in Ontario rape crisis centres. She has now informed these groups that they must come up with new, one-year-only plans.

Could the minister please tell the House why she is backpedalling from her commitment to provide staff funding, as the Liberal government in Quebec does, and why she is backpedalling from a five-year stabilization plan for Ontario's rape crisis centres?

Hon. Mrs. Smith: I am indeed happy that I will be meeting with these groups this week, as we have a very major undertaking to look at. During the summer months, I went and visited at least half of the rape crisis centres around this province and was interested to realize as I travelled around that they have very much changed their mandate.

Whereas originally they were addressing primarily victims of recent sexual assault, which is why, I suppose, they were placed under the Ministry of the Solicitor General, in fact a great deal of their time and energy is now devoted to the problem of incest recovery. This is a growing and very demanding new mandate and one that I, with them, will be examining.

It is not what was originally under their planning process, and it must be looked at in new and creative ways, because many communities in this province have no services at all, while indeed the organizations that do exist could all have twice the money and still be short-staffed.

Mr. Jackson: The minister knows that she has postponed these meetings with the centres on four separate occasions. Some have cynically

suggested that it was because she had hoped the House was going to prorogue two weeks ago.

The fact of the matter is, and I raised this question with her a month ago in this House, that several centres in Ontario are actually going to run out of money. Several ran out of money this weekend, several more are slated for running out of funds this coming weekend, and they still have to maintain their operations for a further two-month period.

What does the minister suggest these centres do? Should they close their doors? How does she propose that they cope, when she is on record as saying she will advance no dollars in order for them to keep their doors open? What does she propose that these centres do?

Hon. Mrs. Smith: I do not know where I am on record as saying I will advance no dollars. In fact, I have advanced money on a regular basis, over and above what was in the original ministry budget, to make sure that no doors were closed.

Indeed, we have expended extra money to keep these centres open until we can work with them to put in a long-term plan. In one sense, the funding is on a year-to-year basis, the same as all other such funding is on a year-to-year basis. There is no intention—and they are aware of this—that they will not be funded next year. They know they will be funded. The questions are will they be funded for new and different programs; will they be funded more than the rate of inflation and so on? Their funding is not in question, nor has any door closed.

Mr. Jackson: The minister knows that the numbers of calls are doubling and tripling. She knows that the mandate has broadened in terms of the amount of counselling and client load which these centres are being called upon to carry. She suggests that there are many facets to the problems of sexual assault that rape crisis centres have to cope with.

The minister will be aware that on December 15, 1988, Steven Bancroft Buchanan escaped from the cells beneath the old city hall. Buchanan had savagely raped three women and was subsequently recaptured. The minister will also be aware that New Zealand has a law which allows victims to request notification whenever a previous assailant has escaped custody, applied for a day pass or parole or otherwise been released.

Is the minister prepared to support a victim's right-to-know law within areas of provincial jurisdiction?

1410

Hon. Mrs. Smith: The question ranges quite beyond the ministry I am in charge of in so far as it goes into the Ministry of the Attorney General and other ministries. Many of the matters the member has raised are under constant consideration. I will be dealing with them and other questions with the groups when I meet with them.

I am pleased to note the member acknowledges that the scope and demand for this service is increasing at such a great rate that it is almost impossible to visualize how we can service this area. This is why we look to them to come together with us for new and creative solutions, because as I say, even if we funded the existing centres to all of their needs, that would still leave the vast majority of the province with no service at all. We have to address it on a much broader and more general basis so that we can be creative and thoughtful in our approaches.

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Mr. Allen: I have a question to the Minister of Community and Social Services. On the weekend I was at the Federation of Women Teachers' Associations of Ontario conference, Women and Poverty. Inescapably, as I attended workshops after plenary session, the question that kept arising and arising was not just poverty among women but poverty among children. The organization has become intensely concerned, as has group after group in Ontario, with the fact that somewhere in the order of 400,000 children in this province live in poverty. They have thrown themselves into the battle to secure some action from this government.

When group after group on the front line has come to the minister and his government with the problem of children in poverty, not just for months now but for years, why does he have to be dragged towards some kind of action on this crucial and fundamental question in Ontario's social life?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: It is clearly stated in the Social Assistance Review Committee report that poverty has an impact on children well beyond their own families. It has an impact, as the teachers' organization referred to, in the school system itself. The findings of Dr. Dan Offord for McMaster University in Hamilton suggested exactly the same thing, so that is known to us and that was one of the reasons we asked Judge Thomson to do the review.

I have indicated before, and I will indicate again, that the response to that review is under very serious consideration and within the next

two to three months, probably less, a response will be given from the government.

Mr. Allen: Of course, the minister never commits himself fully to the first stage of the SARC report's reforms.

I will remind him how severe the problem is in the light of an American study by the US Urban Institute which indicates that it is not just the poverty and children in general, but that Canada has the second-highest rate of children living in severe poverty. That puts it at the second-worst situation among western countries in that respect.

A recent study by an M. Smeeding for the Journal of Post-Keynesian Economics indicates those countries that have resolved this problem have done it because their programs for single women, sole-support mothers and children are much better in terms of government action.

Might I then ask the minister again why, when his government has in excess of \$180 million in the high-tech fund and when the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) has just discovered that over \$360 million he was not expecting is sitting in the tax accounts of the federal government waiting to be transferred, has this government not made a clear and unequivocal declaration that it will act fully and completely on the first phase of the Thomson reforms, and at least give some hope to those families and children and teachers and others on the front line that there will be real action on children in poverty in Ontario in the very near future?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: Like the honourable member, I too was very concerned to hear about the comparative position of Canada with the other western nations of the world. I believe we were second only to the United States at the bottom end of the scale.

However, let me refer to the \$300 million the honourable member indicated. Naturally, he would not be at all surprised that when I found out about that I had a little discussion with the Treasurer, and he pointed out to me clearly that this was a one-time flow of money from the federal government and we could not count on that happening every year.

The honourable member will be as certain as I am that we want to be sure the kinds of money we need for this enhancement of social assistance to the parents of those children, which then affects the children themselves, is going to flow every year from this point on, not just for one year. Therefore, I want more assurances than just that kind of money flowing from the federal government in order to enact this program over a long

period of time, not just over a short period of time.

PROPOSED GRAVEL PIT

Mr. J. M. Johnson: My question is to the Minister of Agriculture and Food. As the minister is aware, the township of Puslinch in the county of Wellington is engaged in an Ontario Municipal Board hearing to defend its draft official plan, specifically its extractive industry policies and the preservation of farm land. Why did the ministry refuse to participate in this hearing?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: The honourable member knows it was his government that brought in the food land guidelines. The guidelines have never objected to developing or using land for aggregate purposes. The only thing is that there was never any mention made about extracting aggregate below the water level, so we have had to contend with that. Here again, as long as they are prepared to rehabilitate that land to the best of their ability, the guidelines would permit that type of thing.

We will be certain and we will be assured that there will be rehabilitation of that land wherever possible. That is the reason we have not appeared before the OMB.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: The minister knows you cannot rehabilitate below the water level. The University of Guelph, the leading agricultural college in Canada, is one of the participants in this OMB hearing as a proponent of having certain agricultural lands in the township of Puslinch designated to allow the extraction of sand and gravel. One would have thought the University of Guelph, dedicated as it is to achieving the best in agriculture, would not be taking this position.

Does the minister not understand that by failing to have his farm land preservation policy defended at this hearing, he is condoning the University of Guelph's position and is sending a signal out to all Ontario that he has abandoned his ministry's commitment to preserving agricultural land in this province?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: I disagree with that. We have to be realistic about this whole thing. We have to acknowledge the fact that various counties rely on gravel extraction for construction purposes and other purposes. Take a look at Essex; take a look at Kent. If the food land guidelines were to say there will be absolutely no extraction of gravel, then Essex and Kent would be in pretty dire straits when it comes to using that kind of aggregate for those purposes.

The same can be said in other areas of the province. The food land guidelines face reality, knowing that development of one kind or another has to take place on agricultural land. As I indicated, the food land guidelines also require that land be rehabilitated to its—

Mr. J. M. Johnson: You cannot rehabilitate it.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: Oh yes; we can rehabilitate a lot of that land. Sure, some of the land will not be rehabilitated, but we can move fill back into lands where gravel has been extracted under the water level and the rest of it can well be used for irrigation ponds to carry out some of the irrigation work that may be done in that area.

PUBLIC SECTOR PENSION PLANS

Mrs. Fawcett: My question is for the Treasurer. A number of teachers in my area have expressed concern about the management of their pension funds. Some members have said they would like the funds to be managed by the government. Others have wondered whether their funds could be better managed by their federation. Could the Treasurer advise this House whether this has been part of the negotiations with the federation and could he explain the thrust of these talks.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I thank the honourable member for notice of this question. It is certainly an important one since during the discussions with the Ontario Teachers' Federation, our main proposal was for a joint trusteeship of the management of the teachers' superannuation funds. This would have involved equal representation on behalf of the government and the teachers, with an impartial chairman.

Unfortunately, the teachers felt there should be final, binding and obligatory arbitration associated with this. It is my view that because in the funds the Treasurer must guarantee there is about \$20 billion involved, passing this responsibility off to a third party as an arbitrator was not something I cared to recommend to my colleagues.

I would say, and I am glad to have a chance to make this specifically clear, that I hope the legislation we are presently preparing will have the alternatives right within it, that the teachers may opt for the trusteeship we have already offered, or if they feel it more appropriate to move right out of the public system and manage their own funds. This of course would mean that the government and the taxpayers would no longer have the heavy responsibility of guaranteeing the benefits.

1420

Mrs. Fawcett: I thank the Treasurer for that clarification. It has also been suggested by the Ontario Public Service Employees Union that pensions be negotiated as part of the total negotiated contract. Would the Treasurer please comment on this.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The negotiability of pensions is something I really have no personal objection to as long as the taxpayers, as represented by the Treasurer and the government, can in the last analysis make a balance on whether or not the tax base can withstand the value of the benefits in the future. Once again, our discussions got into difficulties—I guess that is the appropriate word—on the basis of final, binding and compulsory arbitration. I simply repeat for the honourable member that since these funds would together accumulate to \$20 billion, we felt the public interest had to be represented directly by the government and not handed off to a third party by way of arbitration.

ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE

Mr. Morin-Strom: I have a question for the Minister of Community and Social Services with regard to substance abuse problems being faced by young people in our province. The Addiction Research Foundation has reported that in Algoma, families of these young people cannot find proper treatment facilities, not only in Sault Ste. Marie but elsewhere in Ontario as well, particularly for children below the age of 16.

Will the minister give us his assurance that we are going to have programs established in Sault Ste. Marie and other residential treatment programs established in other communities across the province in order that the recommendation from the task force, from his own colleague the member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay (Mr. Black) is met, that the ministry provide "a high priority to a co-operative effort to establish additional programs and services for adolescents and teenagers in Ontario at the earliest possible moment"? When will this happen?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: For children below the age of 16, our ministry does not at the present time, as the honourable member has pointed out, have a specific range of programs for substance abuse. Rather, we use the programs available through our children's aid societies or through our children's mental health centres.

The honourable member will be well aware that both of those services are presently available in Sault Ste. Marie. I might add that the children's mental health centre in Sault Ste.

Marie has undergone some very positive transformation over the last two or three years, and more and more of the community is making use of that service now that it is producing the results the community wants it to produce.

The honourable member is also correct that the Black report clearly indicated that in consultation with other ministries, particularly the Ministry of Health, our ministry should look at the possibility of specific programs for substance abuse as opposed to the more generic programs. That is under consideration at the present time.

Mr. Morin-Strom: Certainly, the minister must recognize that there is a very serious problem with the extent of the programs and services being provided by other agencies when we have a situation in a community such as Sault Ste. Marie where last year 38 local youths had to be referred to drug treatment programs in the United States, in cities such as Minneapolis, St. Louis and San Diego, at an average cost of \$20,000 per child. The bill for these kinds of programs amounts to nearly \$1 million just for youth in Sault Ste. Marie.

When is the minister going to come through with programs that allow these young people to be treated in their own community in a much more effective and efficient way by the government of Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: As the honourable member is probably aware, the Premier (Mr. Peterson) has made it very clear to all ministries of government that are impacted by the Black recommendations, particularly the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and my own ministry, that we must come back to him directly with our proposals and plans to implement the recommendations of the Black report.

We have done that partially up to this point. The member is aware of the fact that the Ministry of Education has made some significant movements in that direction. The Ministry of Health and our ministry are presently co-operatively co-ordinating their response to it, because as the member knows, where significant treatment is involved our ministry has a lower capacity than the Ministry of Health. What is under consideration at the moment is whether this should be a joint effort and whether one or the other of us assumes full responsibility for it.

BEEF MARKETING

Mr. Villeneuve: My question is for the Minister of Agriculture and Food. In the minister's recent announcement on the beef vote, eligible voters must have owned or raised a

minimum of four head of cattle for at least 45 days during 1987 or 1988. I have been contacted by a young person who is currently a bona fide beef producer and recently got into the business, but did not own four head of cattle in 1988 for at least 45 days. Will this young person have the opportunity to vote, or what has the minister done to look after people recently involved in the beef business?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: The criteria have been established. If you did not own four head of cattle for a period of 45 days, either last year or the year before that, then you will not be considered an eligible voter.

Mr. Villeneuve: In the minister's announcement on the same beef vote, one of the questions pertains to working towards a national supply management program. If a national program is not a realistic goal, and it may not be, how much extra income does the minister feel the agency or commission that regulates the sale of all cattle will put into producers' pockets?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: That is really not for me to decide. I am sure that if the honourable member has cattle on his farm and is an eligible voter, he will be the one who will help make the decision whether there will be a beef commission and whether this beef commission will strive towards a national supply management system. That is what the voters out there will decide.

APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING

Mr. Offer: I have a question to the Minister of Skills Development. I have recently received a number of concerns from constituent electrical companies. Their concerns deal with the requirements, and in particular the ratio, of journeymen to apprentices under the Apprenticeship and Tradesmen's Qualifications Act. I have been informed that there is an acute shortage of electricians at present in southern Ontario and I ask the minister what steps he is taking to address this problem, under apprenticeship, of the ratio of journeymen to apprentices.

Hon. Mr. Curling: The member addresses a concern many people have been writing to me about regarding the ratio of electricians' apprentices. As the member knows, the active involvement of the construction industry over the past couple of years has caused a great demand on that profession. As the member is quite aware, the ratios are set by regulations. Any changes that are made to those regulations are done through a provincial advisory committee, which people make representation to. If such changes take place, we will look at it very carefully and adjust

those ratios. At present, the ratio is one to three. For every journeyman there are three apprentices.

Mr. Offer: Regarding these concerns brought forward to the provincial advisory committee about the current ratio, can the minister give me some idea of the time period for which this committee will be looking at this issue of ratios under the apprenticeship act?

Hon. Mr. Curling: Maybe I turned the apprenticeship ratio around. It is one apprentice to three journeymen, if I can just correct the record. I thank the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston) who seems to be on the ball in this respect. We have to be extremely careful that in the changing of these ratios we do not respond just to the moment where there is a demand, because the concern of the profession is that we may have a flood on the market itself.

To respond directly to the member's question, as soon as we receive those reports from the provincial advisory committee we will look at them very seriously and make the necessary adjustment.

1430

FRENCH-LANGUAGE SERVICES

Miss Martel: I have a question for the minister responsible for francophone affairs concerning the French Language Services Act. The minister will know that during the estimates for his ministry I raised concerns that there had been very little information given to the general public concerning the act. I raised the concerns because it appeared to me there was a great deal of confusion around what the bill entailed, who would be responsible, who would be affected, etc.

Two weeks ago my office surveyed most of the ministry offices in Sudbury to determine how the act was impacting upon them. We found some very wide discrepancies in a number of areas: how it was determined that the act would be implemented in the ministry; how many—if any—other positions would require bilingual staff; what provisions there were for French-language training, etc.

Given all of this, I would like to ask the minister if he would commit himself to ensuring that all of the French-language co-ordinators for all of the ministries located in Sudbury would meet with the staff in Sudbury to go through the act and all of the questions arising out of it.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: I want to thank the member for showing so much interest in Bill 8. I know she is faced with some problems in her

area, and the Office of Francophone Affairs and myself have always been willing to offer not only her but her party or any member of this House more help. But I would like to remind the honourable member that a significant number of initiatives have been created by the Office of Francophone Affairs through videos and brochures.

Every ministry has an implementation manual. Every regional caucus has been shown these implementation manuals and videos. I have even offered the member, at the time of the estimates, to visit her caucus personally with members of the Office of Francophone Affairs and provide her with all the necessary information so that every co-ordinator, every public servant, will have the same real information that she is looking for. Yes, I will provide the member with all of the help necessary to provide information to all civil servants.

Miss Martel: I think the minister is telling me that yes, he will direct all of the co-ordinators to meet with the staff in Sudbury. I certainly hope that is what he is saying because that is specifically what I am looking for.

Also, as a result of the work we did, one of the big concerns I have arises out of the fact that there are some very different mechanisms for providing French-language training throughout each of the ministries. Because each ministry is responsible for providing French-language training to its staff, there is a wide discrepancy between who is receiving training and just how adequate that is. As a consequence, would the minister seriously consider developing a general policy which would apply to all ministries, so that all staff would have equal and adequate access to French-language training?

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: An interministerial committee was set up some months ago and it is now working on a kit, on a program that will, as the member says, provide everybody with the same information. As the member knows, co-ordinators from every ministry have different ways of delivering the same information, but some co-ordinators do not communicate as well as others. It is our responsibility to see that all co-ordinators receive and transfer this information and we will provide the member with all the assistance needed, instead of doing what some members of the Conservative government are doing at the present time—using the press to misinform the public generally about Bill 8. At least the member stands up and asks a very perfect, legal question.

FUNDING OF SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES

Mr. Villeneuve: I have a question of the Minister of Community and Social Services. The minister is aware of a number of strikes involving local associations for the mentally retarded.

Can I get the minister's attention?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Villeneuve: There are a number of strikes in the area involving associations for the mentally retarded. Sudbury, North Bay, Dufferin county and Dundas county in my own riding are affected. The minister should know that the associations and union locals involved agree that the problem is one of inadequate transfer payments. The strike is on now in Dundas county.

Does he agree that strikes are most disruptive to the mentally handicapped and service will suffer for as long as local agencies are unable to compete with the pay and benefits given to ministry staff and other public service employees?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: Where a strike is in progress, arrangements have been made by the administration and management people of that organization to continue those necessary services that simply cannot be withdrawn; for example, residential services. Day programming, however, is stopped and the young people continue to reside with their own parents in that situation.

I do not like that any more than the honourable member does. The difficulty, however, is that the amount of money that we can flow to the agencies is roughly in the neighbourhood of the inflation rate, 4.5 or five per cent, as the case may be.

The individual agencies then have to decide how they are going to allocate that money for a range of services. Obviously, the biggest bill they have to pay is their salary bill, and that restricts them somewhat; I certainly agree with that. We constantly try to flow them as much money as we possibly can. It is not always what they would like to have.

Mr. Villeneuve: The minister realizes that a percentage across the board just compounds the problem. It does not solve anything. The poor get poorer and the rich get richer.

The starting salary, for instance, at the Rideau Regional Centre is \$12.84 an hour. In Dundas county, after three years, a worker receives \$9.50 an hour. How can the minister justify the withholding of funds to equalize pay levels across Ontario? At the very least, try to improve the transfer payments so some of the associations

that are receiving the lowest salaries get looked after in a slightly better way than the rest of the province.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: Over the last couple of years, we have reversed the ratio of the total number of resources going to institutions compared to those going to community agencies. About a year and a half ago we reached the point where more than 50 per cent of all the money in my budget for the developmentally disabled is now going into community settings versus institutional settings. I do not know what the figure is right now—we have not done the final analysis for this current fiscal year—but I am sure it is going to be that much more again.

As the honourable member knows, we are gradually and increasingly moving more people out of facilities and back into the community and providing community services so that people who already live in the community do not have to go into an institution. As we do that, we are able to move more and more of those resources back into the community, and as that process continues we will have more resources and we will be able to improve and to boost and to enhance the services we are offering at the community level.

TEACHERS OF ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Mr. Mahoney: My question is to the Minister of Education. I have recently received, and I am sure a number of members of this House have also received, correspondence from English-as-a-second-language teachers who are concerned that the regulations in Bill 70 will create two streams of teachers—first, that of continuing education teachers certified to teach credit courses; and second, continuing education instructors who teach noncredit courses—and that experienced English-as-a-second-language instructors in adult programs particularly will be displaced by those holding the Ontario teachers' certificate.

Could the minister please explain how Bill 70 will affect the current provisions regarding qualifications for teaching English-as-a-second-language programs?

1440

Hon. Mr. Ward: The member will know, as will all members, that Bill 70 has been debated in this House, it has received second reading and I would expect it will shortly receive royal assent.

The purpose of Bill 70 was to create a contract for continuing education teachers. Prior to the establishment of this legislation, all certified teachers in the province could either have a

permanent contract or a probationary contract. Those teachers who taught only continuing education classes were not being provided the opportunity for either one of these contract options.

Bill 70 has created a third form of contract for continuing education teachers. The legislation does not change any of the other existing provisions. A continuing education teacher of a credit course will, of course, still require a teaching certificate and it will be only those instructors who teach noncredit continuing education courses who will not require a teaching certificate.

Mr. Mahoney: I guess the letters have not reached the members of the opposition. They do not think this is a serious concern but I can assure them that it is to a number of my constituents. The Teachers of English as a Second Language Association of Ontario has submitted recommendations to the ministry which outline a request for a special provision that would allow experienced ESL instructors to qualify for OTC certification, which would then permit them to be classified as continuing education teachers.

Could the minister tell us what his ministry is doing with regard to the recommendations of this association?

Hon. Mr. Ward: I am very much aware, of course, of the concerns being expressed by the Teachers of English as a Second Language Association of Ontario. As I indicated in the initial response, I do not believe that the legislation established under Bill 70 will have any detrimental impact. I think the issue is very much one of certification. The professional development branch of my ministry is examining a wide variety of issues as they relate to the certification process.

In dealing with those issues, we have widespread consultation with both the Ontario Teachers' Federation and the Teachers of English as a Second Language Association of Ontario. I am sure their concerns will be fully aired in making determinations as to future regulations. Of course, my ministry will be very sensitive to the needs of all groups.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Mr. Mackenzie: I have a question for the Minister of Labour. The minister was over in Hamilton for an opening and some other events over the weekend. Following his visit, I had a call that I must confess disturbed me a little bit. It was from some of the injured workers who did

some lobbying of the minister while he was in Hamilton.

One of the questions they were asking him was why everybody is not going to be allowed to appear before the committee that is looking into Bill 162, and they mentioned some of the delays in the hearings.

The minister, according to the injured workers who called me, told them he had nothing to do with that at all; if they had any concern they should be contacting the committee and that it arranged its own business. He also made what I thought was an uncalled-for and rather strange comment: that they might also be interested in knowing that the chairman of that committee was a New Democrat, the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren).

Can the minister tell us if he has been quoted correctly by these injured workers?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I am glad the member for Hamilton East brought us back, during this question period, to last Friday in Hamilton, because he and I participated Friday afternoon in what I thought was a rather historic event: the opening of an occupational health and safety clinic in that community that I think is really going to make a difference to the working people of that community and be of great assistance to workers from the Hamilton-Niagara area.

He is absolutely right. The member for Nickel Belt is the chairman of the standing committee on resources development and he is doing a great job. The chair of that committee, along with the committee members, determines the schedule for the hearings and it is inappropriate for me to take on the responsibility of determining the timetable for the hearings under Bill 162.

I think the member for Hamilton East would agree that any interference by me as to the scheduling of those who want to appear before the committee would be entirely inappropriate and that if people have concerns about the schedules, they ought to contact either the chairman or the clerk of the committee. That would be the appropriate step, so I was correctly quoted.

Mr. Mackenzie: I am pleased that the minister was honest enough to admit that is exactly what he said to these workers. I would ask him why the cheap shot, because is it not also true that when we tried to move that committee so that it could hear all of these people, it was the six Liberal members on that committee who voted solidly to deny us that right and it was the minister's executive assistant who was running

up and down the line telling them what to do in the committee hearings?

That was a cheap shot concerning the chairman of that committee, and the minister knows it. Let me tell him the workers know it as well.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Now we are getting into patent nonsense from the member for Hamilton East. I will tell my friend from Hamilton East that I do not think the member for Nickel Belt is embarrassed about being a New Democrat, and I do not think he is embarrassed about being the chairman of that committee either. I think he is proud of both of his marvellous characteristics.

Several weeks ago the standing committee on resources development determined that it would hold some six weeks of public hearings, long before the events of a few days ago that the member for Hamilton East describes. It decided, after due deliberation, that it would hold six weeks of public hearings. I am glad that it provided that much time.

The events of last Wednesday were to the effect that the committee should throw away its agenda—and I think it is outrageous for that to be suggested—and that it should just go on having hearings until every single person who wants to have an opportunity to make an oral submission be heard. If my friend the member for Hamilton East can show me one occasion in this House where a standing committee—and I know, Mr. Speaker, I am taking a long time—decided to have hearings until every single deputation was heard, then I will be terribly surprised.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Leeds-Grenville is waiting very patiently.

LONG-TERM PLANNING

Mr. Runciman: My question is for the Treasurer. It deals with a demographic study that his ministry released a couple of weeks ago—I believe it was his ministry—indicating that the population of Ontario would increase by approximately three million people by the year 2011, I believe.

I am just wondering if the government has any concerns with respect to that projected population growth, its impact on the province and various regions of the province. If so, what kind of long-term planning is it involved in?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The office of economic policy releases that demographic study every year and it forms the basis of whatever long-range planning occurs. The honourable member is aware that we also make an economic projection year by year, the so-called grey book,

which was presented to the House in December just passed, giving us the basis of the economic changes for any plans that we bring forward during that year.

I cannot tell the honourable member that I have reached any conclusions about what the projections are to the year 2011. Although I certainly hope and expect to be assisting the government of the day with its economic policy, I have not got around to any definitive recommendations in that connection at this time.

1450

Mr. Runciman: Perhaps that response should be cause for concern in some quarters. If we take a look at the current problems that the government is facing with respect to health care, education, the consumption of prime farm land, congestion in our major urban areas, waste disposal problems, increases in terms of street crime, housing prices in Metropolitan Toronto and other areas of southwestern Ontario, traffic problems which we are all familiar with, highway infrastructure concerns, I wonder if it would not be prudent for the government to consider perhaps a royal commission to engage in long-term planning with respect to population growth in this province, measuring its impact on a variety of services we have come to take for granted that now are under some severe strain, and perhaps even proposing targets for this province which we could work towards achieving.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I think the member is aware that the ministries of the government are in a planning mode at all times. Our responsibility as ministers is to see that we make projections by way of budget and development that are going to meet the needs of the community.

I think it is quite possible, particularly from the honourable member's point of view, to be depressed about the future; perhaps he has every reason to feel so depressed. But when we step back from the immediate problems of the day and see what has been accomplished in the past by the honourable member's colleagues and also see the quality of life we have achieved here, with the provision of opportunities for ourselves and our children by way of good education, by way of the improvements of the environment and opportunities on a very broad basis, we feel nothing but optimism as we look to the future. That probably is the basic difference between our party and his.

PETITIONS

NATUROPATHY

Mr. Kanter: I have a petition on the subject of naturopathy, signed by some 20 or 21 people

who attend a practitioner in my riding. The petition reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is my constitutional right to have available and to choose the health care system of my preference;

"And whereas naturopathy has had self-governing status in Ontario for more than 42 years;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government to introduce legislation that would guarantee naturopaths the right to practise their art and science to the fullest without prejudice or harassment."

I have attached my name to the petition, and I will now submit it to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. There are a number of members who would like to present petitions if they could be heard.

TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION

Mr. Tatham: I have a petition which reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We request the government of the province of Ontario to recommence negotiations and direct the parties to the negotiation process to work towards a reform of pension arrangements which will serve the legitimate needs of both the government of Ontario and the teachers of this province. As Ontario educators, with full participation in the teachers' superannuation plan, we have a direct and vital interest in these negotiations with respect to both our current and continuing status as contributors, and to our retirement security."

It is signed by 230 people and I have also affixed my signature.

MOTIONS

ESTIMATES

Hon. Mr. Conway moves that the standing committee on social development consider the estimates of the Ministry of Education before the estimates of the Office responsible for Women's Issues and that the estimates of the Ministry of

Consumer and Commercial Relations be transferred from the standing committee on administration of justice to the standing committee on general government, to be considered there before the supplementary estimates of the Ministry of the Environment.

Motion agreed to.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

Hon. Mr. Conway moves that Mr. Ferraro and Mr. Smith, and Mr. Black and Mr. Elliot exchange places respectively in the order of precedence for private members' public business and that, notwithstanding standing order 71(h), the requirement for notice be waived with respect to ballot items 65 and 66.

Mr. Harris: I would like to take just a couple of moments to talk about this motion. This type of motion has come forward from this government on a very regular weekly basis. There has been a sense among House leaders that private members' business is for the private members and that in spite of the rules and regulations that are there, which I point out are there for a good reason, we would, none the less, attempt to accommodate private members' wishes as best we could when changes come forward.

Normally it has been that a member wanted to debate his bill and perhaps because events have overtaken the necessity or urgency of that bill or motion, he has to change it, or through sickness or illness or some other unforeseen event the member is away. Then we allow members to exchange places and we have always done that.

The motion deals with standing order 71(h). It says, "At least two weeks' notice must be given for any item to be considered in the private members' time and all bills to be debated must be introduced or notices of resolutions tabled not later than the Tuesday of the second week prior to the week in which the item is to be debated."

The reason for this is to alert the critics of all parties, and indeed to alert the caucuses of all three parties that "this is the motion or bill that I wish to have debated." I think all members require some time to take a look at it, to decide whether they support it or not, do a little research and contact the various interest groups that may be interested in that particular resolution.

From time to time, we have waived these notice periods for all caucuses: some in my caucus, some in the New Democratic Party, some in the Liberal caucus. We do so most generously, I believe, in the very spirit of nonpartisanship, on behalf of the private mem-

bers themselves, regardless of which party they come from.

However, time after time now, for a period of the last five or six weeks, we have seen this motion come forward consistently at this particular time, and always on behalf of the Liberal caucus and the Liberal members. I suggest that this is an example, particularly when we look at the actual content of the motions.

They appear to be not so much motions that members would normally come for and that they would be interested in, but motions that are developed in the ministries and handed to a member. They say: "Please move this. It says what a great job I and my ministry and our government are doing in an area."

I guess every once in a while a government likes to have somebody take some time and do that, although I find it strange that a private member would use up the one opportunity he or she may have every two or three years to really stand for something and be known for something, and use it in such a partisan way. None the less, that is what has happened.

I think we are seeing that this government is really, truly devoid of any and all direction in the front bench, as well as now in the back bench. Recently, a management consulting firm released a report that suggested that the government lacked any vision at all, all the way up through to the Office of the Premier. It seems that the government back benches are also lacking in ideas and concerns.

Last week, my colleague the member for Simcoe West (Mr. McCague) pointed out during private members' time that one hour of valuable House time was wasted because none of over 30 Liberal backbenchers left with outstanding ballot items was prepared to proceed last Thursday, so only one ballot item was done instead of two.

I wish to reiterate my commitment to try to accommodate the government so that we may get on with the business of the House that is apparently so important that we are still sitting here at the end of February to try to clean up business that is normally attempted to be done by the end of December, which was two months ago. But I have to ask myself if the compromises that our party and the New Democratic Party have made and continue to make are really of any value in light of this particular motion.

1500

I suggest that perhaps the answer is: I think not. The compromises we are making do not appear to be helping the government find any sense of direction. Private members' business

should not be punished for the clumsiness of this government nor for its lack of vision or direction, this occasion today being another fine example.

Our party will allow this motion to go ahead. We will have to look at two different motions and the ones we had planned and started to caucus last week. We will recaucus the two new ones this week and will attempt, in the few days available to us, to be ready to participate in a meaningful way this Thursday.

I think it is fair for me to point out that the government House leader and the whip may want to take a look at what is happening among their backbenchers, particularly at a time when one would think that they must at least suspect that there are probably 10 to 15 cabinet vacancies that will occur, if not immediately, then certainly in this next year.

This group, collectively, might want to be better prepared; might want to demonstrate a commitment to a cause or a concern and not be whipped around by the current administration, which appears to be shoving these things at them and saying: "Look, we are in serious trouble here. Please do this instead of what you might be interested in."

Once again, we will support the motion, but I thought it was important that I get those few comments on the record.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I have just a couple of brief comments. First of all, I want to indicate that I support the comments that have been made by the House leader for the Conservative Party. I think these types of motions have been occurring too often—perhaps on occasion they have also happened with opposition parties—and I think that we are going to have to make sure that all members take responsibility for upgrading the importance of private members' public business in this House.

I think over the last couple of years, especially since private members' public business has been switched to Thursday morning, it has not been receiving the attention it did in the past, or the attention of the individual members. The turnout for votes at private members' time is particularly disappointing. Very few members, especially members from the government, attend to vote on these important matters.

But I think that this motion in particular is a further diminishing of the importance of private members' public business. The fact of the matter is that the Liberal government and its backbenchers did not expect that the Legislature would be in session at this time. As a result, they did not give any planning to private members' time.

I do not think it is fair to the opposition members and other members who want to participate in these debates, since there is no real opportunity to research them and therefore little opportunity to have real, meaningful debate in the Legislature.

I also think it is important to note that there are two opposition members who are on the list who are ready, willing and wanting to debate private members' ballot items. The new member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Kormos) and the Conservative member for London North (Mrs. Cunningham), I am sure, would like to debate private members' resolutions. They are on the list but they are at the bottom of the list because they were elected in by-elections.

If the government members cannot come up with ballot items to debate on time, I wish the government House leader would let us know and I am sure the member for Welland-Thorold and the member for London North would be more than willing to put forward their items and have them debated on a Thursday morning.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I want to briefly respond to the interventions of my friends the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) and the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. D. S. Cooke). I regret that other business has called the third party House leader to another place, but I have to agree with him that this is a very routine motion that we have done, as he rightly indicated on a number of other occasions, to facilitate the business of private members in all three of the caucuses.

Notice has been given. I think the member should look at the Orders and Notices paper because, for the members in question—I think of the member for Lambton (Mr. Smith), who wants to engage a debate about speed limits, something I know I have a particular interest in—it does not in any way indicate the kind of deficiency that the member for Nipissing seemed to be suggesting. I think it is a routine motion. I do not think there is anything untoward about it.

The member for Windsor-Riverside knows well, of course, what the protocol is with respect to the lottery list. It is true that while the very sterling member for London North and the member for Welland-Thorold are actively involved, they, like the rest, have to take their place in this lottery.

I can remember the frustration years ago of being further down the list than perhaps my friend the member for Oshawa (Mr. Braugh), who, I remember, always seemed to do particularly well in drawing an earlier, as opposed to a later, card.

I repeat that it is a routine motion. I am pleased to put it forward today because I know I will be putting one forward at some time in the future to perhaps accommodate the squire from Mount Forest, who, unlike me, is always ready to proceed.

As a final observation, I want to say, though the member for Nipissing is absent, that I know the member for Simcoe West will communicate to him that my colleagues on the government benches do not say to me any of the sorts of things that were being suggested by him.

They really just ask me, "How is it, government House leader, that the member for Nipissing could have been so outfoxed by Tom Long in the setting up of the criteria to choose the next leader of the Tory party of Ontario?" They say to me: "The member for Nipissing seems to be a very shrewd operator, tough-minded in matters of legislative debate. How is it that he could have allowed the president of the party, so youthful and so inexperienced in other matters, to have so completely taken charge of the criteria that will determine the next leader of the Tory party?"

Mr. Speaker: Is that referring to the motion?

Hon. Mr. Conway: So I say to my friends from Mount Forest and Alliston, if they want to report to the Tory House leader what it is my colleagues are wondering about, they can convey that wonder and wonderment, because we do not know how the member for Nipissing could have been so completely outfoxed in something so important.

Mr. Speaker: Usually, I allow the proposer of the motion to make the final response. Is there agreement to hear the member for Simcoe West?

Agreed to.

Mr. McCague: I just want to say to the House leader that his response to the points that were raised by the House leader for the Conservative Party and the House leader for the New Democratic Party was completely irrelevant to the point they were making.

It is important that everyone knows that we are supposed to have the matters to be debated before us two weeks ahead of time. Here it is three days ahead of time. That follows a booboo of last week in the absence of the House leader, who was ably replaced by the government whip. It is one booboo after another.

I think everybody in this House felt there would be some adjournment or whatever at about this time, and here the government has so much urgent business to do that it cannot tell us on

Thursday what it wants to do next Thursday. I think that is a shame.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I believe we have heard the motion. We have had considerable discussion on it.

Hon. Mr. Conway: If the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) wants to make an intervention, I certainly wouldn't deny him.

Mr. Speaker: Well, I will have to ask, is there unanimous consent?

Agreed to.

1510

Mr. Laughren: I want to follow up on the government House leader's comments about the Tory leadership race and talk about the reasons why Tom Long is leading in that race over the member for Nipissing, even though personally I think the member for Nipissing is more in tune with the ideology of this province than is Tom Long, whom I have never met.

I really was very interested in hearing what the House leader had to say about that, because he is a student of Ontario political history, and when he talks about it and even ruminates about why a particular candidate is doing better than another, I think most people in Ontario listen to him. I just want to say to the government House leader that I do not agree Tom Long should be the front runner in that race; I think it should be either the member for Nipissing or John Tory, although there are others in that caucus who could emerge as dark horses.

I do not want to take up the time of the House in an unfair way. I really did not intend to get into this debate this afternoon until I was provoked by the government House leader, who insisted on this diversion in our deliberations, but I do think it is important to note that the government House leader is staking out his position as to whom he is going to support in the Tory leadership race.

Mr. Speaker: That is pretty good proof the Speaker will have to be much firmer in the future.

Motion agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

House in committee of supply.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF HOUSING
(continued)

Mr. Chairman: Would the minister like to move to the front?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: Yes, and I would also like to request permission to have staff join me on the floor. May I do that?

Agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: The member for Oshawa would like to start.

Mr. Breagh: First, I want to thank the members for rearranging schedules. I was called away last week. My father is having kind of a rough winter and I do appreciate that other members were kind enough to allow us a little latitude in how we go through these estimates.

I read the minister's opening comments, and because we rebroadcast the proceedings in the evening, I had the opportunity to watch them. I was struck as I watched the speech. As you read it, it is like a lot of other things written by the Ministry of Housing these days. There is kind of a pro forma agenda at work, of things the government wants to say about housing and the kind of initiatives it wants to take in that regard and the way it functions.

As I watched the speech, one of the things that struck me was how sad it is and how unfair it is essentially to take someone who has good intentions and a fair amount of background in other life experiences and plunk her in the middle of the political process in this kind of position. Without being patronizing at all, I have said for some time that it is very difficult, because the way the political process works is very different from anything that I have ever experienced before.

There is a natural tendency, I suppose, on the part of many ministers, to gather around them people who are friendly, who are knowledgeable in their field and who will advise them to use them a lot in terms of, "How do I respond to this question?" because it might well be in a field where they have no real personal knowledge. It is unlikely they have ever worked in a field quite like this before and so they rely on people within the ministry to write speeches for them, to provide them with information and to provide them with answers to oral questions.

There is, somewhere in there, a dividing line between the minister who takes hold of a ministry and establishes a direction and does things—it is not to pretend for a moment that any human being can know what 15,000 or 20,000 people are all doing at any given moment in time. He or she cannot. Those of us who are in politics know that.

But there is such a thing as a direction being set and there is also such a thing as ministers being taken prisoner by ministry staff. I regret to say I think that is what has happened here. I hear the minister when she responds and it is almost as if there is a record going here. There is a standard

response to whatever the question is. It does not really matter. There is a ministerial answer that has to be put out.

Those of us who are fond of a British television program called *Yes*, Minister watch that television program in great agony, because it is too close to the truth and we know it. While everybody else watches that British television program, hilarious in the knowledge that this is just humour at work, those of us have been in politics for a while know that there is much more than humour at work in that program. There is a whole lot of truth flooding out.

Even a casual observer who sits in the gallery in these chambers for an afternoon like today will soon see little pieces of paper flowing back and forth. The Premier (Mr. Peterson), in answering a question today, got one from underneath the gallery. It gets to a point where it does not really matter who wrote the note. As long as the note says something reasonably coherent, it gets a minister out of a difficult situation.

As I watched the minister give her opening remarks, I was struck by the unkind feeling that there was something gone wrong here. I have had an opportunity, mostly while driving these days, to think about what has gone wrong and I think I have identified some things that we ought to pursue and that she ought to pursue.

The first is, it really strikes me that here is someone who knows what to do, who has the intentions and the political will to do it, and if she were allowed to do it, good things would happen. She is not the problem. The problem is those around her. She cannot, as the Minister of Housing, build enough housing units to ever do any good so long as we have a Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) in Ontario who is the biggest land speculator in the province. That is impossible.

We cannot possibly supply enough affordable housing for our people when our efforts as governments are long and difficult and require co-operation from a lot of other people, and the private sector is out there playing in a field that it sees, quite rightly, as a business. So as a business decision, if there are 100 units available on the market over the weekend in Mississauga, why would one not sell them off for the biggest buck one can make? That is precisely what they are doing.

If the law says one can buy an apartment building here in Toronto or in any other community in Ontario and flip it over in six weeks or eight weeks and make a few million dollars, why would one not do it? It is legal and it is being done. Set aside, there is nothing

particularly evil about that, except that in the middle of a housing crisis the evil comes about when people are evicted, when tenants pay the increased rent, and when governments write laws that start out to try to be fair and reasonable to both sides, to recognize that there are costs incurred by landlords and that we want to acknowledge those and somehow work those into a fair rent review system.

But what we wind up with is a rent review system that is hated equally by both sides. It is hated by landlords who say, "This is the worst form of bureaucracy I have ever seen," and particularly by the smaller landlords who do not have their own bureaucracy to go to war with these folks, who do not have accountants and lawyers on file, who do not have a whole lot in the way of paperwork and who do not have a whole lot of documentation.

1520

A small landlord is as much a victim in this system as a tenant, and the larger landlords who can afford to hire the accountants, lawyers and bookkeepers, the people to do renovations whether they are needed or not, and the companies to supply them with new stoves and new microwaves whether they are needed or not, can find a way through the system quite nicely. In fact, for those folks, the government in Ontario has given them what is tantamount to a situation where they cannot lose money on an investment. That is a scary thought, but that is what is happening in the housing field.

For those who, like many members here, have worked for a long time with nonprofit housing of various sorts, have tried to get senior citizens' housing in their community, have tried to see that there is housing available for low- and moderate-income groups in the community, it is very difficult for us to stand back and watch this happen.

We know how long it takes and how much work is involved in getting even, say, a small co-op of a couple of hundred units actually built. That is a long, difficult, bump-and-grind process of trying to get governments to co-operate, one level with another, of trying to get human beings who have very different agendas in the same room talking about what they want, making their decisions about what the building should look like, seeing what an architect can do, seeing what a builder can do, going through all those aggravations in a field where that is not their normal work experience. It is a strange and difficult thing.

At the end of it, people who are involved in nonprofit and co-op housing are immensely proud of the kind of things they build. Part of that pride comes from the fact they had to overcome a great deal of adversity, but that runs against the norm in Ontario and they know it and they soon find out how difficult it is to gather all of that up and push it in one direction and stay there long enough to make it happen.

It does happen and we should all be proud when it happens, but it happens so infrequently. One looks at the struggle that is involved in making that occur as opposed to the ease with which the private sector sells a building in an afternoon. People we do not even know, people who do not even live in this country can invest in land, in property in Ontario and flip it over in an afternoon, and the tragedy is not their investment; the tragedy is that the ministry itself can work until it is blue in the face and have all of its work undone in an afternoon by someone we do not even know.

I would bet that in an afternoon of real estate investing in the city of Toronto, they will have more units change hands than the ministry could build within a year. I do not think I am wrong on that. I think it is quite simple to have that happen.

I want to spend a little bit of time on some of the things I think are right about housing and some of the things where I think we are off course a bit.

Like most members here, I am subjected to an immense flow of paper from people all over Ontario who bring their problems to Queen's Park, who write to members in all three parties and expect us to offer an opinion on a matter or assist them in some way or who simply want to vent a problem.

Here is one that came in this morning. It is an example of the kind of thing I was just talking about. This is from 3380 South Millway in Mississauga; 100 low-rental units financed by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. were sold off over the weekend to prospective individual buyers at a \$150,000 price range. The one I have is \$157,700.

It is an example of where our system has gone wrong, clearly. These particular units in fact were financed by the federal agency that offers mortgage money in the area, CMHC, so there is that kind of involvement. These units were also involved in the Cadillac Fairview flip scenario, if I can describe it that way, that has been the subject of a great deal of investigation about speculation and about whether it was done

properly and legally and all of that. So these units have a bit of a history.

The pertinent fact, though, is that there are now about 100 families who were paying rather substantial rents, it is true: about \$890 a month for three-bedroom town-house units. They are now going to get evicted and that is fairly clear, too, because when people bought this, they were told by the people doing the selling: "There's an easy way to get possession of the unit if you don't like these tenants. You simply say you want to occupy these premises for your personal use and they have to leave."

I do not think there would be a riding in Ontario that does not have a similar kind of situation. It compounds itself. It gets worse as the situation turns over; in my riding, for example, on Glen Street. I had some tenants in to see me about a week ago. They brought in file folders that made a pile about three feet high on my desk, file folders full of information about the units where they live.

They happen to be ones like this one in Mississauga that have a long and complicated history. They were built by one person, put on the rental market, then pulled off the rental market and sold as condominiums. They then continued to be rented as condominiums. They have multiple owners; about 150 people own that building. They are all rented at different times to different people. They are all subjected to different sets of rent review.

Nobody in the building has a clue what the legal rent is for that building. Nobody in the building really knows who the owners are. There is no one there to do maintenance work. There is no one there to whom to complain. When they go to the rent review process, they are faced yet again with what they see in very real, personal terms as an evil thing at work.

It is evil for two very good reasons. First, nobody on this earth can understand rent review in Ontario; that is an unfortunate fact, but it is true. Second, it produces all the wrong results. It is supposed to provide a mechanism whereby the landlord gets a fair return on his dollar and the tenant gets a reasonable rent.

People get confused when they see the Minister of Housing stand up and say, "Rents this year are going to increase by 4.7 per cent," and then the Rent Review Advisory Committee says, "Yes, but for you, it's 13." People have little messages going in their minds, saying: "What is this? Didn't somebody official and important at Queen's Park say they would be 4.7? Then how

could they be 13 per cent, or 11, or 12, or 50 or 62? How in the world can that happen?"

It happens in part because of the process. If you have read the newspapers lately, you know the Treasurer has had a lot to say about housing matters. He is not the Minister of Housing, but he is, I would contend, one of the main crosses she has to bear, because I think the Minister of Housing knows full well—as she would say on her own, as she gets another little piece of paper from her staff—that most of what she is trying to do is thwarted by the person who usually sits in that seat.

As a matter of fact, if the government wants to change the cabinet around this afternoon, this might not be a bad time to do it. I think she knows it does not matter a hoot how many units she announces. If the Treasurer does not take some steps to slow down speculation, all her efforts, all the money she spends, all the staff time she puts forward are going to go for nothing, because in a housing situation where there is surely a supply problem for certain kinds of people, if she is not able to produce those houses at the same instant other houses are flipped over, we have a major problem. Are people going to stand around and wait for houses to be built? They do not seem to have much choice these days, do they?

The Treasurer has this mindset. He is being very fiscally irresponsible, in my view, because he knows there is a housing problem. He knows the problem centres on affordability. He knows speculation causes much of this problem and he continues to look at it from the point of view of how much revenue he can gather into the trough.

In normal circumstances, one would expect the Treasurer to think along those lines. But in the middle of a housing crisis, at least he should have the good grace and dignity, once in a while, to pause and consider the misery he causes the Minister of Housing. He seems not ready to do that yet; in fact, quite the opposite. Every time I see the Treasurer of Ontario talking about the price of housing, he is trying to figure out some new angle to get more tax money from it. He is proposing lot levies now, more of them, for different purposes, collected by the school boards to ease the strain on the provincial budget, to finance education.

1530

He is talking now about perhaps increasing the land transfer tax. That does nothing except fatten the old provincial coffers again. I do not deny for a moment his financial problems, but I think he ought to have mercy on those who believe, foolishly perhaps these days, that they have some

reasonable expectation, at some point in their working lives, of actually owning a home.

He gives us all of the nonsense about how lovely it is to live in St. George. I am sure it is. I would be interested to hear the Treasurer's reaction if we took the 3,000 people or so who are on the waiting list in many of our communities and bused them all to St. George tomorrow morning and said: "Here they are. Now we are going to put up low-income housing right here in downtown St. George and we want you, who invited them all to come and live here, to turn the sod." I wonder what his reaction would be. Maybe he would love it. Maybe he would come back from overseas long enough to actually attend. It would be wonderful.

That is the heart of what I see as the problem here, the conflict, perhaps personified by the Treasurer, who wants to rake in the money and who sees, in his mind, every justification in the world for indulging in land speculation himself as long as a portion of the profits that are derived from that goes back into housing somewhere else. I think that is a crime. This province owns better than 90 per cent of the land mass itself, so land for housing is not the difficulty. It really is not.

It is a question of whether the federal government, the provincial government and a lot of municipal governments are going to be speculators in land or attempt to use a resource which they already own to resolve a social crisis. That is going to take some guts, but I do not see very much evidence of it happening anywhere in Ontario, to tell members the truth. That saddens me.

Let me talk a little bit about some of the other problems that have come up in a little while. I must say I find the points of agreement between different groups quite fascinating from time to time, and here is one which fascinates me. I do not agree very often with the Toronto Home Builders Association, but I do now. When they did their little press release a little while ago and the new president of the association, Frank Giannone, made his maiden speech, so to speak, he noted that a study conducted for the association shows that 11 per cent, \$26,103, of the \$237,545 price of a new home in Brampton was attributable to fees, taxes and other levies imposed by the municipal, provincial and federal governments.

Without spending a lot of time on whether lot levies are good, bad or indifferent, I think the point made there that has to be considered by all of us is, are we not supposed to be having a crisis

in housing? Should governments not be helping instead of taxing? Should it not be an occasion when governments at all levels say, "We cannot resolve all the problem by ourselves here, but one of the things we could do is take a look at how much we contribute to the cause of the problem, the price of a home"?

I have to say I am in full agreement. When governments dip into the price of a house for more than \$26,000, something is radically wrong. How did we get to this position? For those of us who are observers of what is happening in housing, this is barely the tip of the iceberg. The fact is that today this house in Brampton probably has gone up another \$20,000, \$30,000 or \$40,000, and the percentage of taxation rises accordingly. Ontario is thinking about at least increasing the land transfer tax and it is talking about letting school boards collect more lot levies off this.

The problem is not that \$26,000 is obscene. I think it is, but that is not really the point; the point is that is the trend line. That is where it is going, and it is going up. The real problem is that for most people their reasonable expectation of buying a home is no more.

There is not a member of this assembly, supposedly fat and healthy, overpaid politicians, who could qualify on his own for the mortgage for this house in Brampton, not one of them; and there are no young people out there, supposedly the first-time home buyers, in any community anywhere close to Toronto who, on one salary in a family, could qualify for the mortgage.

Not in my community; none of my well-paid, unionized, strong industrial workers at General Motors of Canada on their own could qualify for a mortgage in my own community. That is a crime. That is taking my community away from the people who built it, and that is wrong.

It is true that if you own a home, as I do, you can be happy about this. Sometimes I think this government is kind of banking on that a lot, that anybody who has real estate now of any kind—in my own community there is a place called Olive Avenue which is one of the great places in Oshawa. It is great because I live on it, among other things. I live at one end and Mike Starr lives at the other. It is kind of a political spectrum.

Traditionally it has been a working-class neighbourhood with a variety of housing. There is good substantial housing stock there. It was at one time considered to be about the cheapest place in Oshawa that you could buy a home. It is not any more. I know of places on Olive Avenue that do not have basements, never mind R-2000

insulation. There is nothing underneath that house except cold air, and it is selling for \$100,000, \$110,000, \$115,000. That is truly ridiculous.

When one looks at the new subdivisions in Oshawa, and this is something I think we should pay a little more attention to: I remember last week when the Toronto Real Estate Board survey of the price of houses in Ontario came out that in North York the average price was \$800,000. The first thing I thought was: Who would pay of their own free will \$800,000 to live in North York? Apparently it was because there are not many new homes coming on the market there and the ones that are coming on are all big, huge and luxury. They are now called in the trade superhomes.

It is unreal to think that in this society a house of any proportion goes for that. It is unreal to think that in this society, people who are well paid—not the poor—people who are teachers, people who are well-organized industrial trade union workers do not have a reasonable expectation of being first-time home buyers.

I heard the Treasurer and the Premier mumbling out in the hall. They were suggesting, "Well, if you don't want to pay \$800,000 for a house in North York, don't." That is a lot of sympathy from people who are supposed to be our political leaders. They say, "Well, go east, go west, go north, go anywhere." They did not suggest going south, but it is a little cold and wet out there these days. "Just leave. Go somewhere else."

When I bought my first home, for example, I was working here in Toronto. We started to look at where we could afford to buy a house, and that is pretty much what we had to do: by the Woodbine Race Track, took a look at homes in Barrie, found a very nice place in Oshawa and bought there. It was viable for us, because at that time in the teaching market you could trade teaching positions fairly readily, as you could now. Resettling in that way was a viable option.

For a lot of people this is not much of an option. Those who would advocate that people who live in Toronto ought to go to Courtice, Newcastle, Uxbridge and places like that ought to go out there and hit that road for a couple of weeks every day and see just what it is like to commute back and forth and see the kind of stress and strain it puts on them and their families.

Try to find a parking spot in the Whitby GO station; it is real fun. The judges in the Durham region tell me they can always tell what is going on in the GO parking lots by the number of

assault charges laid. Things get kind of hot and heavy out there on a morning when there is one spot left and three guys want it; even some very dignified people get into some most undignified arguments about who is going to park in the spot.

Mr. Campbell: Like yourself?

Mr. Breagh: I would never do that.

The traditional option is: "Look elsewhere. Go a little farther east." Members should come out and see what it is like in places like Courtice and Newcastle. They would be amazed that we have wall-to-wall housing now from Newcastle right into Scarborough. You really cannot tell the difference from one municipality to the other, even though the initial concept behind regional government was to see that there was a distinctiveness kept about local communities.

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There was all kinds of funny talk about buffer and park space and distinct communities and that kind of stuff. If members go into any of the new subdivisions in Oshawa, they will find people who probably do not know where Oshawa is, because they work in downtown Toronto. They drive back and forth; they leave the house at six in the morning and they get back around 7:30 or eight o'clock at night. It is really tough to develop a sense of community when that is your lifestyle; but for many people, that is really what it is all about.

What about people who traditionally are now renting accommodation, thinking: "In another year or so we will take advantage of OHOSP, the Ontario home ownership savings plan. We will go out on the market and we will save up some money and buy something"? People are looking at that and saying: "This is nuts. So what if we save a few thousand dollars under this tax exemption? The few thousand dollars that we save are used up in a week in house prices. We would be crazy to sit around and wait 12 months to save \$5,000 when the prices of units go up that much in a weekend." And they do.

They just fall farther and farther behind in their real expectations of whether they can actually buy something. Can they afford to pay out \$900 to \$1,000 a month in rent and reasonably be expected to save very much money? Probably not. So a lot of those people who would normally be entering the housing market as buyers are excluded just because of the reality in which they live.

As you travel around places like Metro Toronto, you will see different phenomena. In my community, for example, we are actually having a boom in rental accommodation being

built. It is kind of remarkable and I do not think government would lay much claim to it, but it is happening. The value of land in Oshawa is escalating to the point that where we have a single-family home on a big lot—and we have a few of those left around the community because they were built before there was a sewer and water system in Oshawa and they needed big yards for septic tanks—the economics of that has turned around to the point where somebody can go in and buy three or four of those, get the land rezoned and put up an apartment building.

We have some going in that regard. I think that is kind of defensible, in that it is intensifying the use of the land, increasing the density a bit, but it meets two things. First, we need rental accommodation of any kind in our community, so it is good from that point of view, and second, from a land use point of view, it makes some sense.

I see the same phenomenon being used in other communities. Here in Metro, in North York, for example, I see good, substantial housing stock. It is 30 or 40 years old, that is true. It is not the most glamorous thing in the world, but I have been in a lot of those houses and people are proud of them. They are well kept and they are being bought five or six at a whack now. What springs up in their place is the superhouse again. They take down three good single-family houses and put up one huge sucker.

Some of them I do not understand. I have driven through parts of this city. If I made friends with the home builders' association a little while ago, this will put it offside. They build some of the ugliest monstrosities behind huge brick walls, and why anybody in his right mind would pay half a million dollars for a jail like that is really beyond me. But people do. The market is there, and I see a few out my way. They are mostly in Whitby, where the market is a little more upscale than in Oshawa. There is no sense to this.

My wife and I were looking at model houses over the weekend, because she is trying to convince me to put some paint on the walls. We looked at one that was a very nice home. But I will tell the truth: If I am paying that kind of money for a house, I want an estate. I want a place for the dogs to run and the horses to gallop and a huge pool. I cannot afford any of this, so this is all theoretical to me, but I would not pay half a million dollars for a home that has a four-foot setback, and a lot of the homes that we looked at on the weekend do. The house completely fills the lot three times over. I do not

know that that is really good planning by anybody's standards.

I guess the point is that essentially what was seen not very long ago as normal, reasonable expectations of home ownership is not there any more. We should start to say that. Whether that is world-class or not and whether that is fashionable or trendy or whatever, that is true. But people in many parts of our province do not have a reasonable expectation of buying a home of any kind.

It used to be said: "Okay, if things are getting a little pricey in your neighbourhood, stop thinking about single-family homes. Start thinking about town houses. Start thinking about condominiums and concepts like that." Take a look around at what is available even in that type of housing. Take a look through the *Toronto Star* on a weekend. See the price of the condominiums and tell me whether you qualify for that mortgage either. You will not.

Most of our population is being precluded from purchasing a house of any kind. Find me the town houses that are being built to form a higher and better land use concept here in Metro Toronto. They are not. Find me the condominium that is on the market anywhere in Metro for less than \$100,000. There are not any.

I have a friend who just paid something like \$180,000 for a very fashionable broom closet down by the lake, and that is essentially what it is. For that kind of money, what he got was two and a half rooms, I think, one of which could be either a sunroom or a bedroom, depending on your mood, I guess. But that is all that is there. That is atrocious.

It is true, and I think I would agree, that not everybody should or wants to live in downtown Toronto. A lot of people should live somewhere else, but the problem is that they work here. They have to be here. They have to live within commuting distance. We are not really doing anything about assisting the commuting process at all.

I know all about GO trains and I know all about highways and I know who does not want highways and expressways and all of that. But if the argument is that they will work in the downtown of a big, urban centre like Toronto and live 50 miles away, this country is not set up for that. Other countries are, but this nation is not, and we had better be prepared to have governments pay for the infrastructure to transport people at high speeds over that distance because we sure do not have it now.

Even my beloved GO train is discussed in here a lot, and I have ridden on a few occasions lately. If I had to get up at six to have the great pleasure of riding the GO train for a couple of hours and the TTC and standing around in the stations for another hour or so, so that my travelling time in the course of a day were three and a half to four hours, I do not think I would be loving my GO train quite as much as I do now when I ride it periodically.

If that is what the government wants to do, if that is the plan of action, then it has to get with it. It is going to have to start talking about some kind of high-speed train service and there is not any. It will amaze me if this government or any other in Canada can get approvals for such a thing.

I think we have some major problems here. They have to do with the price of houses and the kind of speculation that is going on in housing of all kinds these days and the fact that this government seems quite content to do nothing about it. I want to conclude this little part of the recording by saying that I understand how tempting it is to just do that, to sit back.

I often fantasize; every once in a while a real estate agent drops a little something into my mailbox. I cannot believe there is some fool out there who would pay that much money for the house that I bought for \$97,000. More than double that price is the going rate in Oshawa for that kind of a home. I keep thinking: "I actually live in a home. I and a mortgage company in London have this tremendous piece of real estate in beautiful Oshawa. Couldn't I do a whole lot with this kind of cash?" Then I think: "But I do have to live somewhere. Where would I go?"

Even in Napanee—I was there in the last week or so—the average selling price of a house is upwards of \$100,000. Good God.

Mr. Keyes: No, Goodyear.

Mr. Breagh: The member may say "Goodyear." My father lives there. This is a little aside, but my father gives me all the scoop on what is happening in Napanee and it is really true. People in Napanee have very mixed feelings about Goodyear coming to town.

Initially they thought: "This is great. Here's an industry coming to Napanee." Now they are getting down to: "That's nice, but who puts the road into the plant? Who puts the sewer into the plant? Where do these people live and what does that do to the price of housing?" My dad is really worried that the parking meters in Napanee have just gone up to a dime. He thinks they might actually hit a quarter. So the ravages of inflation are marching on Napanee and they know it.

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I think they would all like the Goodyear plant to stay and grow and develop and all that, but \$100,000 as the average price for a resale house in Oshawa is cheap; in Napanee, it is just plain nuts. We sometimes think of this as a Toronto problem, but it is not. It is everywhere in Ontario.

Let me go on to some other things that I think need to be covered a bit.

Let me move to something that happened last summer, just to show the way governments work. At the beginning of this session, whenever it was, last May or June, we discussed some changes to the Planning Act. One of the members had put forward an amendment that said we should stop exclusionary bylaws. Everybody I heard said: "That is a great idea. Let's do that."

That has not happened yet either, even though I have, interestingly enough, a confidential draft of the Rental Housing Protection Amendment Act from the Ministry of Housing which essentially steals the amendment of the member for Burlington South (Mr. Jackson) and puts it forward as a government amendment. This is interesting, because this did not come to me in the normal flow of things. This is a copy of a top-secret government memo. It is even stamped "Confidential." I was so thrilled. Do members know how long I wait for confidential stuff to hit me?

This is interesting. This is the amendment proposed by someone in the Ministry of Housing. I got it from a friend in North York. It is an unusual way. I usually buy the Toronto Star in the morning and get all my confidential information that way, but this was sent in by a guy from North York.

When the member for Burlington South asked the minister who is responsible for the Planning Act, the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Eakins), "Are you going to move such an amendment?" he said no. This is how it slips from one ministry to the next. One top-secret document is not quite accurate, because apparently somebody forgot to tell the Minister of Municipal Affairs what the Ministry of Housing was doing. Not to worry; nothing has happened yet on that.

The other little thing was that I thought it was time we started talking, in a formal way, about actually doing something about affordable housing being included in official plans and thinking about the process of how to do that. Does the government want to pick 25 per cent as the percentage of the houses in a community that

should be affordable? Does it want to start laying out what exactly it means by affordable? The first problem we get to, of course, is that affordable is different things in different communities, according to the average selling price and the income in that community. That would be pretty hard to do on a provincial basis, but frankly I think we could do it.

I was so happy to be invited to a meeting of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario at the Royal York Hotel. There, I got not one but two ministers of the crown saying the same thing. On this day, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Minister of Housing were in agreement. They both said—I know this is a little hard to follow, but I ask members to follow it if they can—"The government of Ontario wants every municipality in the province to take its fair share of affordable housing, about 25 per cent. Both of us think this is great, and this is what the government wants to do." When people asked, "Is this government policy?" they said: "No, this is a discussion paper. We will discuss it a bit more, but this is what we want to do."

They are really wrapped up in this discussion, because we have not seen any more of that. In fact, the other day when I made inquiries about whether the second amendment about affordable housing would be included in the Planning Act, the word I got back was, "No, we are not ready to do that yet." In which century will we be ready to do something like this?

I do not care about the mechanics. I would even let the government steal my amendment. I would even deny that I ever put forward the amendment, and the government could put out its own confidential draft to anyone it cared to. But I think at some point in time the government has to stop giving speeches about affordable housing and start doing something that makes it happen.

I have heard the argument discussed at AMO and elsewhere. The municipalities, by and large, do not like this idea. They think the province is sticking its big, ugly snout into their business. I do not argue with that for a minute, but I would say to them: "If you don't want us to do that, do it on your own. If you don't want a provincial law that makes a requirement under the Planning Act that your municipality deals with affordable housing, there's one easy way to shoot that idea down: go out and build some affordable housing in your community."

One of the things that has always confounded me about the planning process is simply that there is one thing that is not really ever taken into consideration when plans of subdivision are

approved. We think about the environment. We think about engineering. We think about schools. We think about libraries. We think about sidewalks, lighting, landscaping, fences, type of brick that can be used—everything except one little matter: How much are houses in the subdivision going to cost, and another little thing, when might we see these?

One of the ironies that I see in the process is that I remember being on the Durham regional council when it was first created about a decade or so ago and having all these developers coming in making a pitch to the regional council that they wanted to build affordable housing, and we all thought: "That's great. Why don't you go do that? We will approve your plan of subdivision and we will change the official plan because we want affordable housing." We all wanted that.

The one thing we forgot to ask those suckers was, "When are you going to build this thing?" A lot of them have not been built yet. A lot of those plans that we approved are not even owned by those folks any more. They have long since sold them off in bits and pieces to all of their friends in the development industry, and we never really talked about the prices of the units.

I am not advocating this as a hard-and-fast rule, but here is something that I think is worthy of people's consideration. If you want to fast-track subdivisions—and I have heard the minister give her little speech on this, and it is not a bad one; it is not a great one, but it is not a bad one—the one thing you are going to have to do to get me on side with that is that you are going to have to say, "Here's what the units will cost and here is when they will be built."

If you are to kind of remove the democratic rights, and you are going to do that with any kind of fast-tracking of plans of subdivision, you are going to have to say to some citizens' group, "Listen, you have to get your act together by 30 days and put your objections to this change to the official plan before council within the time period." You are going to have to have some defence that says: "Here is the reason why. We need affordable housing in this community this year. We will approve these plans of subdivision now and we expect in a contractual agreement that the developer will actually build them by this fall and here is what the units will cost." I think if that is what the minister has in mind, that is what she is going to have to do.

I have not heard much more about everybody having to take his fair share since that wonderful meeting down at the Royal York last summer. I know the minister gives speeches on it occasion-

ally. I keep asking when the Planning Act is going to get called. I keep asking if there are going to be changes. Are there new programs, new policies, new legislative initiatives going on?

I do see what the response has been from many municipalities. It varies a little bit, but a lot of them do not like this idea and a lot of them are not doing very much to provide affordable housing in their community. I am going to be on the record again as somebody who says, "I believe there is a social responsibility in every single community in Ontario to be aware that there are people in your community who don't have a decent place to live. If you want to be elected to a council at any level, part of your job is providing them with decent housing; and if you don't want to do that, don't be elected. Go off into the private sector and make your fortune, but get out of the way, because part of government's responsibility is to at least be aware when there are problems," and there surely are problems.

Let me tell members one of the things that causes a problem. The government of Ontario continues to sell off much of its surplus land at a profit. I have listened with great interest to proposals, for example, around Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital grounds and things like that where there is something at work which says, "We're going to take publicly owned land and develop it in a certain way so that at least part of it will be affordable housing."

A lot of the concepts that are being discussed now are a little different. In my community, for example, I have a really big co-op project under way now. It is a hard sell, because the really big co-op project is about 50 per cent of the project in total and the rest of it is going to be market value stuff. The argument centres on, "We want to integrate this" and all of that, but a lot of the people who live in that area of town say: "We know what co-op housing is and we know what nonprofit housing is; we have seen that in our community and it is okay. But what is this monster that you are putting on our land? What is the scale and proportion that is here?" They are having a little difficulty grappling with that.

I heard the minister when she finally came to Oshawa and she gave a little speech and did her "not in my backyard" stuff. We do not use words like "nimby" in Oshawa. It is in our backyard, and we would like to see improved housing of any kind.

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We have the argument in every one of our communities. We have had it again this fall and

we will have it again, I am sure. When people go and put a group home in a neighbourhood, they should at least have brains enough to walk around the neighbourhood and say: "Hi, we are moving in. This is who we have in here. How are you? Can we help you?" If people have brains enough to do that, any street in Oshawa will take them, because they have them on any street in Oshawa, including my own neighbourhood. We understand what is going on here.

It is only when people move in under the cover of darkness and do not bother telling the neighbours what they are trying to do that people get a little hot about that, because they think, and it is not a bad idea: "If you want to move in next door to me, just tell me who you are. That is all we need to know. You tell us what you are trying to do and maybe we could help you out a little bit." There is nobody in my community who does not know someone who needs a hand once in a while. There are lots of them. Quite frankly, there is not a group home going that is not far more acceptable to a neighbourhood in Oshawa than a bunch of young guys moving in next door.

We just went through one of those. It is an interesting little aside. Last summer a group of people in a neighbourhood came in and that was the turning point. A guy—a lawyer, of course—had bought an old house in Oshawa, and, like a lot of other friends at the golf club, I suppose, rented it out to a bunch of young guys. Now it is not the norm and I am not prejudicing my case at all, but young guys in Oshawa do like to have fun. To be a little more specific, they like to party. If you are my age or older, you might not like to party every night, all night. Some of these guys do and they have stamina; they can really keep it going.

So the selling point to the neighbourhood was simply: "That is what you have got now. We are going to bring in a group home that has little children. Would you not rather have them in your neighbourhood than these guys partying every night?" In the end they said, "Maybe we will try the little children and see whether they stack up." So it all kind of depends on whether you talk to one another, which is something that a lot of people do not do.

Let me try to get through some other things that I think are important. I have watched the government as it takes the land it has and puts it out for proposals. We are getting kind of an interesting phenomenon that I am not really happy about. The government land that is being made available to groups is rather limited, and groups are having some difficulty sorting out

who should make an application to use a particular piece of property. The easiest way I can think of to resolve this is simply to make more government land available. There are a lot more nonprofit groups out there who want to get involved in providing affordable housing for different kinds of groups; and there are some that are doing just a magnificent job of providing housing for people where, to be honest, I do not think anybody has ever thought about it before.

What kind of housing do people with a particular handicap really need? People are spending a lot of time and effort figuring out how big the door should be, how high the cupboards should be, what kind of tap you can use in there, and taking the old idea of modifying an older building in a neighbourhood to something that is really quite unique. In a lot of the projects, although that reluctance on the part of the neighbourhood to accept this new facility is there initially, at the end the project is so well done the people see it as a real asset to the neighbourhood and they like it. All they needed was a little space and a little conversation to get it off the ground and going.

I would really like to see more of that on a much larger scale, because I am not an advocate of "Supply is the only answer," but I am a realist; we have a big supply problem out there. I also know there are lots of groups who want to do their bit and would gladly put forward proposals; they are not just the traditional church groups. I was really pleased when the Catholic Church came in with its announcement. Again, this is a bit of an aside: when you do something good, you really do not have to add to it; the truth in itself is good enough.

I was immensely pleased that the Catholic Church joined hands with the ministry and put forward a proposal to build more nonprofit units, but the ministry did not have to include in that public announcement units that are already built. It would have stood up just fine on its own merit; they do not have to add to it every nonprofit house that has been built since Adam put the ark somewhere. If they just tell the truth—

Hon. Ms. Hošek: It's Noah and the ark.

Mr. Breaugh: Whatever it is. I was never good at that kind of stuff.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: We'll do Bible classes later.

Mr. Breaugh: Yes, I need more Bible classes.

I think units already built detract a bit. I recall from estimates about a year ago that the minister wants to talk all the time about numbers. I do not, because I do not think the numbers mean anything. They particularly do not mean any-

thing when the ministry staff plays quite as fast and loose as it does with numbers every day.

When someone identifies the price of houses as difficult, the minister's response is to change the guidelines on what is meant by affordable or change the income numbers. If they think they are not going to get their 30,000 units built this year, they simply expand the time frame a bit: back 10 years, forward 20 years. Surely to God, they will build 30,000 units in that time frame.

I think when one does something good, one really does not have to embellish it at all; just say exactly what one is doing and let it stand on its own merit and it will be just fine. There is no need to add to it.

Let me move to a couple of really unfashionable things. It is not fashionable to talk about the homeless any more. The International Year of Shelter for the Homeless is over. All those wonderful, good and caring people who went to all the seminars and meetings about the homeless, who displayed their social conscience so prominently during that whole year, seem to have gone elsewhere. I cannot believe that is true. I really cannot believe that people find it acceptable that there are real human beings within a stone's throw of this Legislature sleeping on parking grates, that there is a whole subterranean culture now of people who know where there are holes in a wall, as simple as that.

I am told, although I have not been there, that Pearson International Airport is a haven for the homeless because it has huge tunnels with electrical wiring and it is warm and it is inside, and once you get in there they do not work very hard at throwing you out; that you can go and sleep for a while as you join the other throngs of travellers who are going somewhere on a vacation and look rather unkempt after they have been on an airplane for a while and are sleeping in the lobby at the airport; that the homeless can walk in there, and they do not look much worse than the others who have just come off the plane from wherever, and just lie down.

I know that in some of the very fashionable hotels in downtown Toronto, the poor and the homeless have found that on a cold winter's night, if you find a way to get in the fire exit, and that is not too hard, it is unlikely that anybody is going to find you until the next morning and so you can stay there. It is ironic that some of the richest people in the world and some of the poorest people in the world share housing overnight, but it is true. It is true that they have little lists now of which garages are open at what hours and how you can get in.

All of this is happening, when we know there are homeless people here and we know there are ideas that could provide them with some type of housing. This is a difficult thing to do.

In my community, for example, is a rather neat piece of business, I must admit. The Salvation Army, bless its heart, has been residing in downtown Oshawa for as long as I can remember with a nice, big, brick building on Simcoe Street South. It was not quite up to its needs any more and so it went out and built itself a new church just south of Rossland Road. We have had a men's hostel just down the street for a lot of years. It is not exactly the most gorgeous place around, but it was serviceable and it was used.

We also discovered that there are lots of women who are homeless and so we found an idea at the Young Women's Christian Association. The hostel services moved into the old Salvation Army building. They have a hostel. It is nice, bright, clean and warm, and there is good food and companionship and people will talk to you. They also have some longer-term apartments. They are a little on the small side, but they are a lot better than anybody could get elsewhere. Just down the street is the YWCA. It has a project under way where it is building some apartments on land it owns.

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The point of all this is simply that if governments just kind of get out of the road for a while and listen to people who have ideas in any of the communities we represent, there are people out there who have what the government needs, who have the land, who have the initiative, who have the expertise or who can develop it. They need a little help from governments in terms of financing, arranging mortgages and things like that.

If the government would back off and let them do the good work they know how to do, it would not resolve all of the problems but it would resolve a heck of a lot of them. I know the minister is going to say, "That's what we're doing," but I really think she ought to spend some time talking to people who are trying to get these proposals through the ministry. It is not nearly as easy as some might think.

When the minister was in Oshawa she met one of my friends, Lucas Peacock. He is kind of an amazing old guy. He is, I think, 91 or 92 these days. He drops in to see me every once in a while and tells me about what they are doing at the Sunrise Seniors' Project. It is perking along, but it sure is not an easy road gathering up people in the community who would help him, take his

idea and make it real, going through all the little things the ministries want, acquiring property, looking at sites and seeing if you can put a bid on this, that and the other thing.

I hope that building is up so that Lucas Peacock and all of his friends have a pretty good place to live, because one of the things that struck me as being really neat is that here was an older man, a respected man in our community who had an idea all on his own. I remember when he was sitting in my office the first time we talked about it. He said: "You know, Mike, we need seniors' housing. That's a need and we know how to do that. But there are also a lot of seniors who need a little bit more than housing. They need somebody to talk to them. They need a little bit of medical care. They need access to certain other types of advice and services."

One of the first things Lucas Peacock found out was that despite how sensible this idea was and how practical it was and despite the fact he had seen it in operation here in Ontario, he soon found out this is not how Ontario does things. If you go from one ministry's jurisdiction to another ministry's jurisdiction, you do so at your peril, so the process for getting that project approved and under way has been a long and difficult one. It is to the minister's credit, and to everybody's credit, that it looks to me as if that is finally going to happen. But oh, it has been tough, and if it had not been for somebody like Lucas Peacock, who is about as pigheaded a man as I have ever met in my life, it probably never would have happened.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: More pigheaded than you?

Mr. Breagh: Yes, even more pigheaded than me.

Whatever the problem might be, I am worried that the homeless are not popular any more, that the idea that people sleep in cardboard boxes is not news. It will be news again because it is winter after all—it does not seem like it today—and there is no question in my mind that somebody is going to die in the next few weeks, because it is Canada and it is cold out there. The people who are homeless are not in great physical condition. They may find a grate tonight and they may not. There are more of them out there.

I am ashamed to say that there are a lot of people in our society who think something like homelessness is a matter that can be dealt with at a conference. It cannot. The conference has nothing to do with the homeless. The conference is for people with a social conscience who want to go to a meeting for an afternoon. Homelessness is about people who are cold, starving and

hurt and do not have a place to live. While many people would like to think that does not happen here in Toronto, that it does not happen outside of Toronto, I want the record to show that it happens in every one of our communities.

I know that tonight, despite the fact that I have a really good hostel system in my community and that we have worked very hard to provide long-term accommodation for people who are homeless, there will still be guys out under the Centre Street bridge tonight, some because they cannot conform, some because they do not want to go to a hostel, an apartment building, a church group or anywhere. That really should not be the criterion.

They have a need. The need is there and I hope the society in which I live is not so cold and callous that it says, "Let them die," because that is what is going to happen. I know that in other societies and cultures around us there is very much a different attitude. I am struck every time I visit a major American city at the way the homeless are dealt with there, like cattle on a street, a problem to be put out of sight. I like to think we are better than that, but we are not by very much.

Let me go on to a couple of other things I think are worthy of some note. The problem I brought up in the fall is another interesting one about some houses that were being built using steel beams. In a slightly broader sense, I think there is a jurisdictional problem of the building code and the municipal governments supposedly enforcing provincial and federal statutes, but the end result is pretty much the same. By the time the problem is discovered, the steel beam that is supposed to hold up somebody's dream home and is substandard cannot be corrected because it is covered up.

We do not have a process whereby things of that nature can really be discovered. We do not have very much in the way of accountability for manufacturers who supply defective parts that are used in a home, although we have reviewed, for example, the Housing and Urban Development Association of Canada home warranty system and although the home warranty system has said, as I recall about a year ago now, that it wanted to do a kind of "Who are the good builders?" booklet and list builders who have had a lot of problems and give credit to those who have had very few. That still is not out.

Every time you raise a question of whose jurisdiction it is, you get a really interesting array of answers. When you bring up something that is a matter under the building code, you very often

confuse the ministers. The Minister of Municipal Affairs usually says, "It's not my responsibility." The Minister of Housing usually says, "Well, that doesn't come under my ministry." Both usually say, "But it comes under the municipalities." When you go to the municipalities, they usually say, "Well, that is provincial legislation."

People get really mad when you give them those kinds of answers, especially if they have just plunked down \$200,000 or \$300,000 they really do not have to buy the house of their dreams and it looks to them as if the thing might fall apart. If and when it does, they know nothing is going to happen to fix it. I really think the Ministry of Housing ought to take a little look at that.

I was interested this fall when the Minister of Housing very quickly brought in an amendment concerning what kind of metal is used in taps in schools. I was really impressed because—was it the CBC that broke that story?—really quick, within hours, the minister—

Hon. Ms. Hošek: Days.

Mr. Breagh: Days, she said. I apologize for missing her quicker than she actually is.

Within days, the ministry had announced a great change in the code. I thought: "That's wonderful. There's a problem that has been discovered in drinking fountains all over Durham and several other regions, and it only took the government of Ontario a few days to correct it." I thought at the time: "It's kind of a heck of a note, though, that it has to be the CBC that uncovers all this. Didn't the ministry know anything about that?"

Then I saw a further interview on the CBC with some guy who must be on the verge of retirement, because he was a ministry employee and he was on television saying, "I have been trying to get these people to do this for two years now." I must admit I went from saying, "There is a minister really on the ball. Somebody identifies a problem and a few days later she corrects it," to finding out maybe she was not quite as sharp on that matter as I thought she might be.

I want to move on to a couple of other things that stirred me from time to time. It is not that they are earthshaking, by any means, but they do point out some problems. Some of them are a little more dramatic.

As the members may have gathered, I am not a big fan of anybody's bureaucracy. I do not deny that we need bureaucracies around to do things, but I get frustrated when the rules are really

stupid. It seems to me this is one of those examples.

This comes from Kingston, Ontario. It has to do with the fact that when someone dies in one of the units run by the housing authority there, apparently you have to tell them the person dies.

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They went through a long series of rather alarming things because the person had died in one of the housing units. The housing authority said to the remainder of the family, "You owe us money." The family wrote back and said: "But they are dead. They are not alive any more. They are not using your unit any more." Then somebody else said: "That does not matter. You have to pay the money anyway."

Then they went to the Queen's Law Students Legal Aid Society. My old alma mater is Queen's, so I am always glad to see that Queen's is out, busy in the community. They went through a long battle with the publicly funded housing authority as to whether or not the person who was dead and not living in the unit any more should have paid a month's rent, I think it was.

Here is my problem: Why do we need to have a legal aid clinic set up to deal with this kind of thing? Is there nobody with any brains down there? Is there not someone who could say, "It does not make sense to have us, as a publicly funded housing authority, collect money from dead people for rent." That is not a real rocket-scientist kind of question. If they are dead, they are not living in the unit any more. If they are not living in the unit any more, they should not have to pay rent on that unit. Besides, they are dead and you cannot get money from them anyway.

Do we really need a legal aid clinic to establish that fact? Is there nobody with any brains left in the world any more?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: Only you.

Mr. Breagh: Some days I have to admit I am kind of coming to the conclusion, "Well, it sure ain't me."

Here is another example of the same kind of thing. There is apparently on Eastern Avenue in Toronto a housing unit owned by Metropolitan Toronto Housing Authority. I want to raise two or three problems about MTHA, but I will start with this one. This woman's name is Marie Ching Quee, 70. She is now in Taiwan. She has a subsidized apartment in Toronto that is empty.

MTHA has been made aware this woman does not live in this unit and it has been made aware of it for a couple of years. The member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden), I think, has

been in contact with them on the matter and so has a local councillor. There are a lot of people who know that here is a subsidized apartment unit that is empty and MTHA in its eminent wisdom cannot figure out that this is wrong.

They are quoted in Toronto Sun stories. As a matter of religious principle, I do not quote from the Toronto Sun very often.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: Is it a principle or is it not a principle?

Mr. Breauth: It is like yours. It is the one small streak of liberalism in me. I occasionally read the Sun, but I am really reluctant to quote from it.

This is so dumb. Here is an empty apartment unit. I have no problem at all with some woman from Taiwan who comes here, qualifies for a subsidized apartment and gets one. I would be happy about that. I would be happy to help her fill out the forms to get it. I do not even mind that this one unit is vacant and apparently allocated to somebody from Taiwan. That does not bother me at all.

But is there nobody over there with any brains at all? Somebody could at least say: "Fine, you qualify for a subsidized housing unit in Toronto. If you want to come and live here and use it, that is fine, but we can't keep it empty." It does not seem to me we need to call in the rocket scientists either. Is there nobody who could say, "Would you come and see us?" If she says, "No, I am not flying in from Taiwan over some subsidized unit in Toronto," is that not grounds enough for saying, "We have a whole lot of people who could really use this unit"?

Is there not a way to do that? I think the problem is that they turn it over to the MTHA lawyers, which is always a dangerous thing to do.

Let me deal with a couple of other things. I want to go into these in depth, because I know there is a coroner's inquest on one matter. They have been brought to me on a couple of occasions now, various problems that are in buildings run by MTHA. I want to say right off the bat that I do not have any big grudge against it at all. I know that it is a big housing authority with a multitude of problems and times are tough in there.

This is just a small point. The minister was bragging a little bit about how wonderful relationships are between the ministry and MTHA, and MTHA and its employees. They are so wonderful, the guys want bullet-proof vests to go to work; I mean, give me a break. She could at least acknowledge there have been one or two

problems encountered. She could at least acknowledge there is a little difficulty.

We would all feel heartened if she said, "Yes, there have been some problems in the past and we are trying to straighten them out," but do not come in and say everything is wonderful. Everything is not wonderful. The whole world knows it is not wonderful. Anybody who lives in an MTHA unit knows that. Anybody who visits the units knows that. We have some problems here that have to be resolved, with or without John Sewell—whatever the minister's argument was.

Just as an afterthought, some day the minister might tell the world why she fired John Sewell. It would be just an interesting anecdote in her autobiography or something. I think we deserve a bit of an explanation as to what happened there. Did he offend her grievously or something?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: He was not fired.

Mr. Breauth: "He was not fired." Again, that is the good answer. "He was not fired; he is just dead."

Just to put a serious note on it, on two occasions now people have come to me with cases of suicides in MTHA buildings. There is now a coroner's inquest into one matter concerning the death of Margaret Miller. There was no question, from what I know of it, that Margaret Miller was a woman who had a whole lot of problems. But her problems were not helped by the fact that MTHA had threatened her with eviction.

It brings into question a whole range of things that I, and other members here I know, have had to deal with with the local housing authority. We have never quite said to the local housing authorities all over Ontario precisely why they are there, so in my experience they have a tendency to become simply landlords, like any other landlord. One fits their rules. They provide one with a unit. That is it.

I do not deny for a moment that much of what any housing authority has to do is simply that: provide, as a first thing, affordable housing. And housing authorities do that. I wish they were a little more creative in the way they go about it. I wish there were a little more involvement on the part of tenants in the way the units are run. I wish there were a little more consultation than there actually is in terms of the day-by-day administration.

My favourite story about housing authorities is one from the south end of the city where the people who designed the units apparently thought that whoever was going to live there was

not going to have any garbage, because they put one door into each unit, and the garbage always sits at the front door. The tenants do not like that and the administration does not like that, but the simple answer is, if one only has one door, there is only one place where the garbage can sit. That is at the front door because there is no back door.

I am sure we all have stories of going to visit apartment buildings that are run by different housing authorities and seeing the levels of maintenance that are there. Some are really pretty awful. I think some of Sewell's proposals would have solved some of the design problems that are in the buildings, but those proposals, even when they get developed to that stage, seem to die. There is a certain inertia that comes into those things, and nothing ever happens with them. I really think that is sad.

I do not like the idea that somebody who is a maintenance worker in a housing authority, in Toronto or anywhere else in Ontario, feels so threatened when he goes to work that he sits down at a bargaining table and asks for bullet-proof vests. There is something really pretty wrong here. I know people who live in units like that who are terrified by it.

I know some other projects. The minister had something in her statement, as I recall, that went something like this: The housing units are allocated solely on need now. There are no other criteria.

I have seen this and I understand the problem. I would be someone who would say that it is a really good idea to integrate housing units. I know of some where the integration, for example of seniors with young children, works really well.

One called Little Ark Day Care is in the middle of a seniors' building not far from my office. It is a great project. It is a great idea. It really works well. In my view, it works well because the idea was from the seniors. I also know that I have some other seniors' buildings where my senior citizens are terrified to go out in the hall because there are little children running down the hall. They all have a friend who had a fall lately and broke a hip or an ankle. For people who are 70, 80 or 90 years old, they know, whether it is medically provable or not, that you get one fall in your lifetime, and when you are 80 years old and you fall and break your hip, that means you do not move very much any more after that.

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I am not sure whether it is because of the way in which that type of thing was done. I do not know that many seniors would argue that other

people in the building is a wrong idea; I do not think they would. I think they are uncomfortable about how decisions like that are made. Perhaps somebody should go to them and say, "Let's gather up all the seniors in the building and let's have a little talk about whether it would be a good idea or a bad idea to have small children and young families in here."

I will bet there are a lot of seniors in that building who would like to see a little kid in the hall, but I think they would also like it to be their idea. I think whether the approach, in terms of decision-making, was correct is probably the biggest part of this problem. I do not think they argue about whether there are other people with housing needs who deserve a break just like they got. That would be a pretty tough argument for any senior I know to make, that they should get some help with their housing but that others, a little different from them, should not. I would be happy to go and argue for an afternoon or so with them about that kind of thing.

But I do know they have fears that are legitimate. I know from my own experience with my father. He has been sick this winter. When seniors get physically ill, there is a range of other things that come into play. They get sad. They get a little depressed, not quite as feisty. They do not quite want to take on the world. I have all kinds of older people who are my friends who are living in a building that is integrated now who feel threatened for some reason.

I have to say this. I am of an age now where I like little children for about an hour and a half, and after that they get on my nerves. I have done my time with the little ones. I appreciate the fact that my kids make noise when they come home but do not cry at two o'clock in the morning. I think I would have a little difficulty if they did that.

That mix of people with different needs is one that I think has to be entered into with a little more thought. It is as simple as that. I frankly agree with the minister's position that it should be on the basis of need, but I think too that we have a bit of an obligation here not to make decisions on high and expect everybody out there to say, "Great decision."

We are dealing with people's lives. I do not think it is that big a deal to go out when they want to integrate a building and say, "Let's talk about this a little bit," much like when they want to put a group home on my street. If they want to come and talk to me about that, that is fine. If they want to make me part of the decision-making process, that is fine. But it is a little tough when somebody

looks you in the eye and says: "Well, we're here. So what? What are you going to do about it?" It is a little hard to go around afterwards and ask for their co-operation about something.

That is a lot of what I think has been on the main agenda. I just want to do one more.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: Keep going, Mike. You're doing great.

Mr. Breaugh: I am trying.

There is a certain awkwardness in the ministry these days. I am not sure where this came from, but somewhere I hear that there is a lot of privatization going on in the Ministry of Housing, that a lot of proposals are being made about turning things over to the private sector. Somehow we expect some people, for example, in nonprofit housing, to go to endless meetings on their own because they are interested in providing affordable housing for some group, and we expect others to be able to take that idea and make a big buck out of it.

I will grant that there is a place here for the private sector. There always has been and there always will be, but some reason has to enter the picture too. We cannot expect volunteer groups to put together nonprofit proposals and sit there cheek by jowl with somebody who is making \$1 million doing the same thing. That is not going to work.

The government cannot take nonprofit housing and make it a situation where it is in fact profit housing. That is not going to work. One had better be awfully careful when one invites the private sector into the ministry. The Ministry of Community and Social Services—the minister is here so I do not mind using this as an example—has for years struggled with this idea. I was one of the people who said it would be a good idea to get people out of the ministries every now and then and give them examples. Let them work in the field for a while and then bring them back in.

But that causes its problems. When some people are sitting in a Toronto office designing the criteria for funding a program, and the next time you see them they are out in the private sector making an application for that funding, talking to their good friends whom they worked with for a couple of years, that causes a problem and it is not just a perceptual problem. So in other ministries where we have tried to do this kind of thing, I think we should have learned some lessons.

In housing, the problem of letting the private sector right inside the structure of the ministry is one the minister had better approach with great

care. She had better be prepared to delineate in very clean terms just what the private sector can do. Is the private sector being invited to take over the Ministry of Housing? I hope not, but even if they do not take it over, what are they going to do, what will their responsibilities be and how will we go about this?

I am concerned because there has not been a lot of public discussion about this. I see little memos on ministry letterhead about the kinds of proposals they are willing to take. I see there are cautions in there about conflict of interest and all kinds of things to boot, but the cautions are there with good reason. One had better tread very carefully in that regard.

I have gone on at some length. There is certainly a lot more material I have here which people have asked me to raise. Let me conclude with some simple points, going back to what I started with. If there is some kind of magical solution, I wish we would find it now. I do not believe there is. If there is one single solution, I wish we would get on to that now. I do not believe there is. It is not simply a problem of the ministry grinding out a number of theoretical housing units. That is no answer. It is particularly no answer if we are losing affordable accommodation at such an alarming rate.

I am not as concerned, to tell the truth, about what we are doing on the positive side. I see some good things happening there. I see some initiative, some acceptance of housing as a ministerial responsibility, to the point where I think the government really knows what it should be doing. I simply encourage it to get on with the job and go do that.

Whatever encouragement or boot in the rear end this government needs, we should all collectively give that to it. The government knows what to do. It knows how the nonprofit groups can put together proposals. It knows how many times we will have to attack the Treasurer for being such a mean old—I cannot use the word, but he is.

It is not just a matter of spending money. It is not just a matter of using allocations. Over the past two or three fiscal years now, the ministry has been unable to spend the money it has. I understand the problem that is there. I understand that when the Conservatives were in power, for some reason they decided they would basically stop the work of the Ministry of Housing in almost every shape and form imaginable. They virtually disbanded the ministry.

So I do not have any argument that this was a major problem that had not come about quickly,

but that over a decade or so the whole thing had just been wound down. I think all of us here who were even vaguely interested in housing knew that it had to be built back up again. Frankly, I think the Liberals made some of the same mistakes they made when they put the thing together, but that is fine. It is their decision to be made.

I am alarmed at the amount of good affordable housing that is being taken off the market. I think there is just about as much going off the market these days as there is going on. I am alarmed at the options people have, whether it is renting or buying these days. Members will share my alarm a bit, no matter where they live in Ontario, if they simply get out and look at the price of real estate in their community. It differs quite a bit from one to the next, but it truly is alarming.

It is truly a sad fact that the next generation coming up is going to have a problem to face that we never did have. Their expectations about actually owning a home are going to have to be totally different from ours. I bought my first home through the good graces of my in-laws who gave me the \$1,500 to put down, and from the fact that my wife and I were both making princely sums as teachers, I think at that time almost \$25,000. I could not even qualify for a cardboard box with that kind of income these days.

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I think it is going to take collective action on the part of a lot of people. We are going to have to change the way we finance houses. Our lending institutions have to turn their bright and kind minds towards the notion that there are different ways of financing, which are used in other jurisdictions, and that the traditional 25 per cent down and all the rest of your salary every other month is going to have to change or quite frankly they ain't going to be lending money to these folks, because nobody, but nobody is going to qualify for a mortgage under these conditions.

To some degree, we may have to begin now to look at the European models for transporting people in and out of our urban centres. I am reluctant to get on that horse, because I know how expensive that is, for one thing. I know how difficult the approvals are and I am not sure that is the greatest lifestyle. But I surely think it has to be looked at, and to some small degree implemented now.

The curse we have is that if we had done all of this 10, 15 or 20 years when it should have been done, we would have saved ourselves such a pile of money that we would have been able to give everybody in Ontario one new house, even in

North York. But we have not done that, so I think there are substantive problems there.

The other thing that really has to be said though, and I have said it before, is that I am really amazed at the number of laws we have in Ontario that apply to some folks but not to others. The minister introduced some amendments to the Rental Housing Protection Act which are really nifty. I had some nifty discussions with some tenant activists who think that just because the words were changed on paper things are going to be real different.

I think it is a nice law. I just wish laws like that could actually be enforced by somebody. I wish we could find a cop, a building inspector, I do not care who it is, somebody to be charged with the responsibility of enforcing these laws. The truth is that nobody does it.

Mr. Fleet: Are you applying for a new job, Mike?

Mr. Breaugh: No; I certainly would not want this job, I will tell the member that.

That is the problem with it. I am concerned somewhat that in rent review, in the Rental Housing Protection Act, in building standards and enforcement, there are a lot of severe problems simply because there appears to be no one clearly responsible for enforcing a law. I have had discussions with municipal officials who say: "Listen. We have our own bylaws to enforce here too, so don't bother us with getting us to enforce provincial housing laws."

They do not see it as their responsibility. They will do what they can, but that is it. The province has something like two inspectors and hopes to get to five to cover all of Ontario for that kind of stuff. That is not going to do it either. I think a major problem is emerging.

You cannot go very long having laws on the books that everybody ignores. That contributes to the breakdown of the relationship between landlords and tenants. This is a pretty law-abiding group of folks who live in this area. I think, by and large, they want to respect their laws. When there is a law on the books that nobody bothers to enforce, people lose respect for that law. They somehow seemingly lose respect for one another and you very soon have, not a violent society—I do not think we are that—but you have problems that cannot be easily resolved.

When you have a law on the books that says if there is a hole in the wall the landlord has to fix the hole in the wall, and the landlord does not do that and the people who are tenants in that building do all of the little things they are

supposed to do and 12 months later the hole is still in the wall and the landlord is still saying, "I do not have to fix that if I do not want to;" and the city inspector says, "It is not really our responsibility, but we will issue a work order on that;" and people are saying, "All I wanted to was to get the hole in the wall fixed," that is not an unreasonable thing.

That is exactly the scenario I went over with a group of tenants in North York—I think it is Brookside Drive up there—and they were people who could work with the system. They knew how to fill out forms, how to register complaints; they knew the law, they knew how many people the city of North York had allocated for that type of work and they knew it was hopeless. That is the kind of thing they were looking at.

Very simply, if the law is there the law should be respected by everybody and enforced by somebody. The legal rights that tenants have under all the laws in Ontario are not worth very much unless there is some mechanism found for seeing that their rights are followed up on.

I think I will leave it there, since I have had a chance to get on the record some of my concerns, and then we can proceed through the votes. Perhaps the minister would care to respond.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I am very pleased to have my critic from the opposition here to discuss these important issues. I was also, as the member knows, very pleased to visit his riding recently, where we shared a nice meal and talked also to some of the people in his community who are committed to doing some things that will make a difference in making it possible for people to have decent places to live.

I must say that the member is lucky to be living in Oshawa, where the community has indicated very clearly not just by its words but also by its deeds its understanding that people need to be able to live near where they work, they need to be able to have reasonable accommodation, decent accommodation, and there seems to be an understanding in the community as a whole, as well as in the governments in the locality, that everyone has a role to play in making a difference in this problem. I think that in living in his community he has some good examples of the kind of co-operation between levels of government and the community as a whole that does indeed make a difference.

One of the things we are working on doing very clearly, not only in the words that I speak around the province but also in some of the policy decisions that we have taken, is to make sure that every municipality in every region in the

province takes on its appropriate responsibility, along with ourselves and the federal government, in making sure that people can live in communities where they work, where they have a reasonable place to live.

That is not going to be an easy thing to do, as the member himself knows, because of the various things that he has raised today, but I think that certainly our goal is very clear. The message that I have been delivering is as clear as I know how to make it. I think the policy directions that we have taken lead very much in this direction, and I will be talking more specifically about some of them as I go on.

I think the appropriate thing that I would like to do right now is really to respond to all the issues that were raised by the critic from the opposition. I will follow them as well as I can from the path he took in walking through the issues. If they skip a little, that will only be because he skipped a little, but it seems to me appropriate to do it that way.

One of the things that the member for Oshawa was most concerned about was the question of tenant protection. He mentioned the sale of various apartment buildings. Let me say that we have much more tenant protection now as a result of the action already taken by this government than was ever there before. The Rental Housing Protection Act is there to make sure that the rental housing we already have stays rental housing.

I think that is a very important improvement that the new law will give, and it has not only the words that are required to make this happen but a significant statement with some teeth in the act for enforcement, for prevention of harassment, much greater penalties for anyone who breaks the law, a much clearer indication of the seriousness with which the provincial government takes these issues.

We responded as well as we possibly could to the concerns that were raised to us by people who said that the previous legislation simply did not go far enough and was not clear enough in making those points. Sometimes when you have legislation, as we had before, that is short-term, you discover what you could do better.

In this case, I think that in the last round of the new Rental Housing Protection Act we have done better and have responded to the problems that people showed us were actually there in the law before. I am pleased about that. I think that is an appropriate response on our part to the problems that were there for people.

The member talked also about the long process to get nonprofit housing built, and I share that

concern. I can tell him that I too wish that this process could go more quickly and I will tell him what we have done about it; but let me just put it in some kind of context, and that is that, difficult as the building process is, it also needs to have a lot of steps along the way.

What we are talking about is a very, very serious enterprise. Someone does need indeed to find the land. Someone does need indeed to make sure that it is appropriately managed and got through the zoning system. It is obvious that the building has to be designed properly, that concerns in the community have to be taken into account, that the whole process of financial management has to be learned and walked through.

These things are very significant, because, unlike some of the other things that governments do, what we are talking about here is building a major capital resource. It is expensive. The groups that build this housing and that then manage it have a 35-year responsibility in managing the building and helping the community that lives there live well; 35 years is a long, long responsibility.

The quality of the building that goes on, the quality of the work that is done up front makes an enormous difference in people's ability actually to do the job that is required, which is to make sure that the housing gets built and to make sure that the people who live in it have a reasonable place to live and the management can be done right.

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Having said that, I must say that I agree with the member that one would like that process to be as sensible, as rational and as simple as it possibly can be, given the realities of the kind of housing we are talking about. I agree with him and, therefore, we have done something.

In the housing that the province is going to be building unilaterally under the Homes Now program, we have indeed streamlined the process, simplified the process and taken many steps out that used to be there, because in consultation with the nonprofit groups that had a lot of experience, they said to us, "This doesn't really need to be there."

We responded to them, analysed it and, in fact, have simplified it. I think that is a sensible thing to have done. One of the reasons we were able to do it is because of the several years of experience we now have and the nonprofit groups now have about what works, what is necessary and what is not necessary.

I must share with the member opposite my frustration in the sense that a significant amount of our nonprofit housing, about 7,000 units per year, is built jointly with the federal government. We have gone to the federal government and said: "Let's simplify this. We've done it in what we're planning to do. Let's simplify what we're doing with you as well."

At this point, we have not succeeded in getting them to do that. That would be a very sensible thing to do. It would make life easier for the nonprofit groups. I continue to work on getting our federal partners to do that in the work that we do jointly. But in the work that we are responsible for ourselves, in the program we ourselves have done, we have simplified and made the process much more reasonable. I am very pleased about that.

The other thing we have done is issue the policy statement which the member opposite was so good as to remind us of, that was issued at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario meeting last August. He seems to have either stopped tracking that process or has somehow lost hold of it, so let me bring it back to him and remind him where we are.

What we did when we announced it in August was very clear. We said, "This policy statement indicates the provincial policy and the provincial goals." The most visible parts of the policy statement, the ones most people have fastened on, have to do with the 25 per cent affordability guideline with new housing.

But also, there is not as much notice of some things that we think are going to make a significant difference—also alluded to by the member—such as saying that municipalities now have to indicate areas within their communities where appropriate intensification can take place, where we can use the roads, the sewers and the schools we already have.

Literally billions of dollars of public expense have gone into that infrastructure that is sitting there, in many cases not used as much as it should be or underused. We have asked municipalities and communities to indicate where in their municipalities appropriate intensification can take place.

Let me skip ahead to one of the themes the member mentioned a number of times, which is the great pity and the great shame that it is getting harder and harder for people of moderate income to have a reasonable place to live close to where they work.

One of the very great hopes we have and one of the great opportunities is precisely in this

intensification, in using the communities that are already there more intelligently. We have asked municipalities to show us exactly how they are going to meet a very clearly stated goal, which is that we use our existing housing stock and land in areas that are already built up more intelligently.

This particular statement also has some targets and deadlines in it for speeding up the approvals process and streamlining the development process as a whole. One of the reasons housing prices have gone up much more than anyone in this House could possibly like is because of the time it takes to get through the approvals process in ordinary private sector building.

I think all of those are very good moves. What we said at the time and what is still true is that we would consult with municipalities and other interested and affected parties and that the end of the consultation process would be at the end of February. We are almost at the end of February and we will be at the end of the consultation process at the end of February. At that point, the province will look at all the information that has been received and will act in very quick order to firm up what exactly the policy statement will be as a result of the responses from the municipalities and other interested groups all across the province.

The member will know that in the midst of all this, there was a statutory municipal election that intervened. One of the things we had to make sure to do was to get information both from the old councils and from the new. I think we have done that as well as we could possibly be expected to do. If he is concerned that something he heard about in August has disappeared, it has not disappeared. It has been part of the discussion process all along. We will come to the end of that discussion process at the end of February and he will see action soon. The other thing that we have done, of course, is work on simplifying the development process. I will talk about that a little bit later.

The member mentioned a number of times that the rent review system is not producing the results that he would like. It is clearly, as the member knows, based on working through a system of justified rent increases. It was based on working hard with both landlords and tenant groups to find the most equitable arrangement we could have come to for a law that would balance the concerns of both those groups.

I believe that the law, though far from perfect, has done some very clear things and some good things in this direction, and we have been working very hard to give people the protection

that we believe they need to have from unjustified rent increases. At the same time, other forms of protection for tenants have been instituted, including the Residential Rental Standards Board and some other measures as well.

The member is concerned about the question of what he considers to be land or housing speculation. As the member knows, my ministry commissioned a study on speculation which indicated that, appearances to the contrary, in the market that was analysed in the three years that were studied, there seemed to be not very much of what the member would call speculation. The whole question is clearly one the Treasurer is dealing with and deals with repeatedly as a result of the questions from the opposition.

On the question of infrastructure funding, and the member mentioned lot levies for education, again, let me say there was a green paper released on the whole question of infrastructure. I think that is an appropriate question to ask at a time when we are facing very significant pressures of growth all over the province. It is a cliché to say this, but it is a cliché because it is true: We are indeed growing very quickly.

There were 100,000 people came into this province a year ago, and 100,000 people came the year before. That, and the natural increase of our population in the baby boom years, who are now buying homes, and the natural demographic shifts, mean that the pressure is significant. As the member mentioned, it is because of that significant pressure that even communities that seem quite far from Metropolitan Toronto are facing their own housing pressures. The member mentioned the community of Napanee and the concern his father had about the mixed blessing of the Goodyear plant.

The alternative is no industrial development. The alternative is no growth. The alternative is no tire company coming into a community and creating jobs. The reality is that if the province is going to grow, and I am very pleased that it is growing; if jobs are going to be created—and I know the member opposite shares with me the pleasure of the fact that jobs are being created; if the growth is not going to be concentrated only in one area but is going to be spread to various places in the province so that Napanee will indeed grow because there are new jobs, the other side of that is that some expenses and some housing costs will go up. I think the alternative is, in fact, much worse.

In talking about the Napanee question, the member said the municipality suddenly asked, "Who is going to pay for the roads and sewers?"

The fact is, someone has to pay for the roads and sewers when the growth happens, and that is exactly the reason we are looking at this whole question of how to fund infrastructure intelligently and well. It is the byproduct of growth. Also, as the member knows, because he knows something about economic development, unless the infrastructure is there, future growth will be threatened.

So there really is no choice here. We cannot build without sewers and roads. Someone has to pay for them. The people who are going to have to pay for them, to some degree, will also have to be the public sector, through taxation. There is no other solution than to figure out how to get the resources and how to be as intelligent and reasonable as possible and to have as little impact on the other goals that we have for people and their housing and other needs. It is a juggling act and it is not easy.

But the reality is that it cannot be done without some spending, and people are going to have to pay for it, because the alternative, as we all know, is much worse. The alternative is no jobs, no growth and no economic development, and that is simply unacceptable. The realities of the world we both live in are that we have to figure out how to pay for this.

That paper on how to fund infrastructure is out there for discussion. We are delighted to have any suggestions anyone has on how to do this as efficiently, intelligently and fairly as we possibly can. That is what we are trying to do. I am not under any illusion that this is easy. I am not under any illusion that people like the fact of having to spend more money on some of these services, but we need the services and they have to be paid for. Those are the simple realities of life.

The member talked about the tax proportion of the house price which the Toronto Home Builders Association mentioned. I have to say exactly what I have said earlier. The reason there are taxes inside home building is that there are services associated with getting that house built. You do not just plunk the house down. There do need to be roads. There do need to be sewers. There do need to be services. As growth occurs, there needs to be some taxation to take care of the needs of human beings that are associated with that growth.

The member talked about the problem of house prices. I could not agree more with most of the things he said about the very great pity it is that hardworking, decent people in this province, who have every reason to think they should have a good, decent place to live, who are not looking

for luxury, who do not expect it, who expect to have a reasonable place to live, to raise their kids, to do their work, to live, should not have that. I agree with that; that is something I feel very strongly about.

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I believe that what is going to have to happen is that we are going to have to be more creative about those choices. We are going to have to create more physical types than we have in the past, we are going to have to be more intelligent about using land and we are going to have to create the framework within the various levels of government that allows for those choices actually to be built.

It is fine for us to design them in our minds; unless the zoning allows for more creativity and land use, it is not going to happen. Unless all the appropriate regulatory frameworks are adjusted to allow for that innovation, it will not happen. The only thing we can do as a government is make sure that openness is there and those possibilities are there, because the person of moderate income who works hard in this province has a right to have a decent place to live.

The other thing about that is that we now have very different family sizes and very different lifestyles and the choices that would be appropriate and would make people happy and comfortable today are not necessarily the ones that were built 60, 70 and 100 years ago. That is reasonable too, and I think people in the province recognize that. They recognize that their families are of different sizes, that in many cases both adults are in the workforce because that is what it requires today and because those are the choices people have made about how to live their lives.

All that is fine. What we need to do is make sure that the housing choices that go with these changes are enabled by our own framework and by the framework of the municipalities. That is why I think the land use policy statement we have issued is so important. I repeat it because I think it is so important.

The process of zoning for other kinds of choices, the process of deciding how land can be used, resides in the municipalities and unless they are specifically charged with taking responsibility for that, for taking their fair share, for allowing those housing options, it will not happen. That is the reason that policy statement is so significant. It is out of an understanding that we need these possibilities that we issued the statement and that we are so committed to it.

The member was talking about rental accommodation being built in Oshawa as a form of

intensification, and I also am cheered by that. I think that is one of the very important ways we can have better housing and that is the purpose of the housing policy statement.

As to the description of the monster homes he was describing in North York—maybe he calls them superhomes; where I come from they call them monster homes—as I understand, what they do is tear down a small house and put up a very big one. It is because of that use of land, rather than what I would prefer to see, which is sensible intensification so there are more units on that land rather than fewer, that we issued the policy statement and that we basically said to municipalities:

“We are prepared to take our responsibility in housing. We are prepared to spend money on nonprofit housing and have shown so. We are prepared to use our own lands and have shown so by releasing some lands, and we’ll be releasing more. We are prepared to work with the federal government to get what resources it has available. You have to do something too. Your role is to make sure that various forms of housing can be built.”

The member has talked about the whole question of exclusionary bylaws. We have consulted on this topic and the member will see a government response forthcoming on that very soon.

Mr. Breaugh: Another?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: No, a new one; the same one that has made sense for a long time. I think that will be happening very soon.

As to the question of fast-tracking various forms of building, I take that one very seriously in two ways. One of the things we have done in the land use policy statement, which I keep returning to because it does have so many parts to it—

Mr. Breaugh: Wherever it is.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: It is in our ministry and it is part of a discussion process with municipalities and with builders and with members of the opposition if they choose to be part of that discussion. I invite the Housing critic, the member for Oshawa, to do exactly that: to write his response to tell us how we could do it better. I would be delighted to hear it.

Let me say that one of the things the policy statement talks about is a requirement for streamlining, a requirement for fast-tracking the whole building approvals process, a requirement on municipalities and on the whole process.

The other thing we have done is worked with a group of people from the Association of Muni-

palities of Ontario, some people in the building industry and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs in particular on streamlining the planning and approvals process.

Again, in line with what we have done with nonprofit housing, we have tried to work together to identify how we can be smarter, how we can work faster, how we can eliminate steps that are not necessary, how we can work together better. I think the member will be seeing some suggestions coming forward from that group that are very much along this track, and we are pleased to be working on them.

The other question the member raised is the whole government land question, which I have mentioned before, but let me just return to it for a moment. As I said, there have been eight sites identified on which we are working actively.

Let me just give the member one example, which he himself mentioned, the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital site, a large and really lovely site. We have already been actively working with the community and come out with suggestions about what the options might be. We want very much to work with communities, because, as the member says, if you want someone to live in your neighbourhood you walk down the road and say, “Hi, I’m coming and this is what I’m planning to do.” That is what we have been doing. I think it has been a good process. It does not mean there are not rough moments along the way in any of these building processes, but I think we are doing well, talking with the various communities about what is going to happen on the various sites we have that are government owned.

He will be seeing more and more land sites as we work along. We are working with the government land in a very serious way, because I think that though land costs are not everything, serviced land is the single most important cost determinant for housing. That is one of the reasons that land in some locations is so much cheaper than land in other locations. We are trying to be as well organized as we possibly can and also to make sure that the use of government land for people who need affordable housing is maximized.

The member said something about groups having difficulty sorting out who should make applications for government land. We will be working on that, sort of piece of land by piece of land, but for those nonprofit groups having difficulty with land in their own communities, what we have done—it has been in place for more

than a year now and has been very useful—is the land loan guarantee.

It has meant that groups that identified a piece of land have been able with our help to grab it and hold it until they got ready to go into the building process under nonprofit. What that has meant is that they have not had to worry about the financing associated with holding a piece of land as they go through the planning process. That has been very useful. It is a rotating fund. A really large number of groups has made use of it; it has made a difference in their ability to build.

The member talked about the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. Again, I could not agree with him more. It is not a question of a year. As long as there are people in this province who do not have a decent place to live, that is totally unacceptable. As long as there are people in this province who do not have a bed for the night, a room of their own, that is absolutely unacceptable. I could not agree with him more. It is not a matter of a year. It is a matter of whatever needs to be done for as long as it needs to be done.

That has been our view too, so one of the things we did last year was give support to community groups all over the province to form community-based groups to bring together the people who care about housing issues and particularly care about the issue of people who are homeless. We now have all over the province 29 committees on access to permanent housing working on the ground in a grass-roots way, bringing together the resources in their community to figure out what they can do in their community to increase housing options for people who would otherwise be homeless.

The reason that is important is that every community has not only different activists and different frameworks but also different solutions—some things work in the north that do not work in major metropolitan areas; some work in some communities and not in others—having to do with the local grass-roots politics. Of course, there are political issues in all of these things, depending on who knows whom and how they work with each other.

What we have done is help support the most effective use of those local grass-roots resources as we possibly can and also try to identify answers that arise from a community that suit the temper of that community, because those are the ones that are going to work. If the community feels it has found its own solution and we need to come in to help make it happen, we will do as much of that as we possibly can. We want very

much to make that response to a community's identification of answers.

There are some very hopeful signs. There is a group called the Homes First Society managed by a man named Bill Bosworth, whom I am sure the member knows, who has done some extraordinary things. One of the first things we are doing in the St. Lawrence Square site, which is one of the projects I am very proud of, as that process is going through the planning process for building, there is already a group of people who were formerly homeless building housing for themselves inside one of the old Canada Post buildings.

Eventually that housing will be transformed to housing for them and they will go on to another location to build more housing for more people. This is a situation in which the folks who are themselves on the street are providing their own answers, are doing their own work to make it happen. We are giving them the support required to help make that possible. That is the kind of direction I think we need to go in, because I learned from Bill Bosworth, because I listened to what he said, that one of the resources we never talk about is the resource of the people themselves who are out on the street and who have something to contribute to the solution of their own housing problem.

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But the real solution, as everyone has told me, and I agree with them, is permanent housing. The only answer is increasing the supply of permanent housing. In our Homes Now initiatives, in our Project 3000, in the work that we are doing with the federal government to make sure that the commitments it has made are actually kept, the main point is to say, "As long as there are not enough permanent places for people to live, no matter what we do with the shelter system, it will not be enough." We have that understanding and I am not going to change my mind about it. It is perfectly clear that what needs to happen is more permanent housing.

I am glad the member opposite agrees with me about the importance of allowing singles and other groups who were previously not allowed to get on our assisted housing rolls to do that. I think it was absolutely the right decision. It has led to some difficulties of the sort that the member described, about integrating people who were not there previously, for example in seniors' housing. In some communities that was done very well. In some it was done less well. It is very uneven across the province.

I will not change my mind about the importance of having decided that if people need housing, they need housing. They should not have to have a label on their heads that says they are mentally disabled, physically ill or anything like that. If they need help with housing, we are obliged to try to give them that help. If it is a little bumpy in the transition, I am sorry about that, but the alternative is just plain worse: of having people who had no chance of getting any of our help in housing. I think we did the right thing.

In all of these things, I think the key is for governments to work with the local community to develop solutions that suit the provincial goals. One of the roles of the province is to set a standard and to say, "This is what we expect of ourselves and of the local communities and provision of services through people who need them." How those are met can very much vary in terms of the spirit of the community and the kinds of solutions they can come up with. It is a little less simple than simply saying that from now on everything will be the same all across the province, but it is much more realistic and more responsive to people's lives.

I too enjoyed meeting Mr. Peacock, who is working on seniors' housing. Hearing his stories, I am even more convinced that we were right to simplify what we are doing under Homes Now and that we are right to continue to press the federal government to say that this can be done more simply. It should not be this hard to make something happen.

The member mentioned the steel beams question and the Ontario Building Code. Let me say that the ministry has already worked with the building officials in the Toronto area to try to correct this situation. Clearly, the building code is the responsibility of the Ministry of Housing, and that is fine. But the norm is that municipal inspectors are supposed to make sure that the building code rules are adhered to. The alternative is to create an entire superstructure of provincial building code inspectors on top of the already existing municipal building code inspectors. If people think that getting housing built now takes a long time, just wait until there are two levels of inspection. We really do have to make sure that we make what is there work and not create yet another complication that makes it even harder to get reasonable housing built in a reasonable time. I think that is the only way to make it work. Of course, the Ontario New Home Warranty Program, which is administered by the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Rela-

tions, is also dealing with this matter and with others.

The member mentioned the change in the code for lead solder, and I cannot leave the suggestion aside without making clear what happened there. Our ministry was working on fixing that code for a longish while. We were basically almost ready to announce it. When we heard that people were concerned about it, we announced it, and I think that was the right thing to do. I think that was exactly the right thing to do.

The member talked a little bit about the problems of some of our tenants in Metro Toronto Housing Authority. I understand the concern and I share it. Half of the people who live in our housing are seniors, and many of the people who live in our housing do not have easy lives. That is simply a fact. We know that. They do not have easy lives. They are there because they do not have a lot of money. People who do not have a lot of money have a hard time in this society. That is clear.

I think that we have tried very hard to be a much more responsive landlord and to deal with more than bricks-and-mortar issues. We have a whole branch called tenant support services, which I was asked about the other day and which I will talk about a little later in response to those questions, working to help tenants as much as we can.

We have community relations workers in almost every building, trying to provide the kind of support needed by the human beings who live in those buildings, to give them the help that they ask for and that we think we can give them, to help make their lives as reasonable as possible. I take seriously our responsibility to human beings and not just to bricks and mortar. I think that is normal.

We have 250,000 tenants; 250,000 people live in our buildings. It is never going to be possible to be perfectly adequate in the provision of every social service to every single one of those people. We do the very best we can. We are continuing to do better. The message from the Ontario Housing Corp. board and the local housing authorities is very clear: we want to be as responsive to our tenants as we can. We want them to be as active in their own communities as they can possibly be. We consider them our partners in making their communities reasonable places in which to live. Unfortunately, when you have 250,000 tenants there are going to be moments which are not terrific, in which bad things happen. We do the best we can and we are going to continue to work hard to make that even better.

As to the question of redesigning those buildings, I know there are some proposals out to redesign some of the buildings we have and make them better places. The reality is that those buildings are jointly owned by ourselves and the federal government. They are not owned entirely by the province. They were put up together with the federal government's support, they are jointly owned by ourselves and the federal government and any major changes we make have to be made in partnership with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. and the federal government. That is simply the case. Whatever changes we work on have to take that into account and we have to get the agreement of the federal government to make them. I think we are doing some interesting things in that regard, of which members will be hearing more later.

The member mentioned the whole question of so-called privatization of Homes Now. That is simply not the case. Building 30,000 new housing units on top of the commitments we already have is a massive undertaking. It more than doubles the workload of the ministry. It is a very significant piece of work to undertake. We have increased our staff in the ministry significantly to take account of that.

Let me read the member a statement, made by him a year ago at estimates, in which he said: "For a lot of nonprofit groups, what they really need is a little bit of expertise, somebody who is familiar with taking something through that kind of process, somebody who knows what you have to do....Is there any thought within the ministry about taking a proactive stance, of making a resource group available to advise a co-op or nonprofit group?"

I take very seriously everything the member says. I actually do, it is true. It seems to me the member has really said: "There are all those groups out there with varying degrees of expertise. Some of them know how to do this stuff; some of them are new at it. They need support. You can't just send them out there to do a very difficult thing, which is to become a developer, a builder and a long-term manager of a building, without help and without support."

We in the ministry have increased the resources to do that. What we are doing right now is taking a look at the possibility of how we can get even more resources for that purpose. We are examining the various resources that are available and we are going to see if the resources that are available outside government can help us to do this work in a reasonable, efficient and

cost-effective way. We may use them; we may not.

No decision has been made about that, but what we are doing is examining the alternatives of the resources out there to make sure the nonprofit groups that are building housing all over the province—and will be building even more with our new provincial initiative of building 30,000 more units—get the support they need to do the job, because it cannot be done without that support. That is what that is all about. I am glad to be able to clear up the member's misconceptions about this one.

The member's concern about good, affordable housing being taken off the market is one that I share, except that it seems to me he is somewhat exaggerating the degree to which that is happening. One of the things we have done is—the old Rental Housing Protection Act was reasonably effective at protecting housing stock and, in so far as it was not effective enough, I think the changes we have made in the new act are meant to take care of that and to make sure there is more affordable housing out there.

The member said he was concerned about the possibility of new kinds of mortgages. I think all financing options that would make housing more affordable should be looked at. The federal Minister of Housing is also interested in this question and is going to be doing some work on the same question. It is very important to do more innovative thinking about finances, so that we make more choices available to people, but the other side of that is there have to be homes they can actually afford to buy.

However fancy the financing gets, at some point they have to pay for them. Whether they pay for them up front, pay for them in bigger mortgages or pay for them for longer periods of time, they have to be paid for. What we really want to do is to make sure that there are more such homes that more people can afford. That will make it easier for all of them and make it possible for more people to have a reasonable place to live that they have some ownership in.

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The member said something about the whole question of transportation, and of course we always consider the relationship between housing and transportation. I am very attracted to various European models that perhaps are less accepted here in North America. One of the ones that I am most attracted to and is very European is intensification, using the land we have better, because that will make an enormous difference.

The cost not only of infrastructure but in time of simply spreading out for ever is very high. I think more people are now willing to consider living in a smaller space for the tradeoff of being closer to work, especially as family sizes and housing forms and the way in which we live together have changed.

The member talked a little bit about enforcement of the Rental Housing Protection Act. Let me say that we have put a number of changes in the act. We are very serious about enforcing the new act and a number of the measures that we put in will improve enforceability: the extension of the limitation from six months to two years; the authority to order a reconversion, which I think is very significant; and various other changes in the act which I know the member has been paying attention to, so he knows they are there.

It seems to me we have signalled our seriousness about this. I do not know how we could signal any better than in the kind of legislation we have brought forward and in our making sure that the supply of affordable rental accommodation does not go down from what it is right now. I think that is very significant and I am very pleased that we have done that.

What I would like to do at this point, if I may, since I think I have responded to almost all the issues the member raised, certainly the ones I noticed as he walked through them, is that I have some responses to several questions which were raised by my colleagues on the last day. If it would be acceptable to the member, I would like to answer them. May I do that? May I respond to the questions that were raised on the last day?

Mr. Chairman: Are there any further questions on the estimates?

Mr. Breaugh: Just one little thing. I have never had a briefing note handed to me before, but somebody has now done that, and since I do not have staff to do that I presume it came from one of the two fine gentlemen who have been attending to the minister all afternoon.

I will do what the minister does when she gets pieces of paper handed to her; I will read it. It says, "Has Breaugh commented on the fact that the price of housing is such that the Housing minister cannot live up to her campaign promise of moving into the riding of Oakwood?" I do not know what it means, but that is the question.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The question is, "Are housing prices very high?" Yes, indeed, they are very high.

May I respond to the questions that were asked the other day?

Mr. Chairman: Go ahead.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: One of the questions was from the member for Beaches-Woodbine. The question was is provincial government assistance available to upgrade rooming, boarding and lodging houses to meet fire and safety regulations? The member should be pleased to know that eligibility under the low-rise rehabilitation program has been extended to owners of rooming, boarding and lodging houses just recently, if they comply with program criteria. The owner of the building has to make application to the local municipality in order to do that.

There was a series of questions asked by the member for Markham (Mr. Cousens) the other day, I assume because the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) was unable to be here to ask questions after he made his fine intervention on estimates the other day. One question was, "How many units are being created under Project 3000?" The answer is 3,000 units, and of these, about 1,100 are now both finished and occupied.

The next question was, "How many nonprofit units were completed in 1988?" The answer is 7,746 units were completed in 1988 and the total since 1986 is 11,925.

The other question was, "How many of the 20,000 units promised in December 1985 are completed?" The answer is 20,510 have been completed under nonprofit housing, Renterprise and convert-to-rent programs, as was planned.

There was a question of how many of the 6,700 federal-provincial nonprofit units were completed in 1988. The answer is 7,747 of those units were completed. It should be noted that the program started in 1986 and that a nonprofit project can take from 10 months to two years to build.

A question was asked about how I will meet the 30,000-unit target date of 1993. We have made some allocations already. There will be substantially more made in the next little while, followed by commitments in 1989 to 1992. Without unforeseen impediments, we should be able to complete our target.

The question was asked about how many nonprofit groups have applied for mortgage financing through this program. At the moment we are in the development stage of this program and so far 400 projects have applied for mortgage financing as part of their initial application.

I was asked how many dollars in subsidies we paid nonprofit corporations in 1988. The answer is that \$73 million was paid in subsidies for the fiscal year 1988-89.

The member for Markham asked the question about what the tenant support services did. I have said that the tenant support services people did a survey that indicates that up 40 per cent of our tenants in public housing receive some form of support services from the housing authority. Since we have about 250,000 tenants in housing in the province, 40 per cent of that should not be too difficult to figure out.

The issues that the tenant support services program deals with include: development of race and ethnic relations training for our staff, development of a comprehensive antidrug strategy, development of a community development strategy for public housing, establishment of a pilot project for a community-based skills development recreation program for the children in public housing, establishing linkages with community mental health agencies and development of three pilot projects, together with the Ministry of Community and Social Services, to incorporate child care facilities in social housing.

When I mentioned the tenant satisfaction survey, which is the source of some of our information about how our tenants use tenant support services, the member for Markham—acting, I assume, on behalf of the member for Nipissing—asked me if I would table the survey. I have copies with me and am pleased to provide them to the member for Markham.

Those are the answers to the questions that were raised the other day. I am pleased to answer any other questions anyone has.

Mr. Harris: I would like to take a few moments, if other members of the committee would allow me, to ask a couple of questions and to put a couple of things on the record with regard to rent control and rent review that I did not get on the record last Thursday.

The minister alluded to the fact—and I notice with interest in the Hansard she alluded to the fact about three times—that I was unable to stay right through till six o'clock last Thursday. She mentioned it again today, I think a couple of times, in her remarks. That is quite right. I was unable to stay right through to the end. I would have thought the minister would have understood, being part of a caucus of 94 and one who was away from this House for the first week of January when we were all back here, that being part of a caucus of 17 and House leader, trying to represent my party around this province and in the House and being critic for a number of portfolios, of which I know she considers Housing to be the most important—and indeed I do not consider any that I have to carry to be more

important than Housing either, but I do have the odd other responsibility in my role on behalf of my caucus and as the member for Nipissing.

I appreciate that she thinks it is important to point out at every opportunity that I cannot be in the House for every minute. It is part of the attitude problem that I brought up last Thursday as to why I think she has difficulty in getting along with the various players in the various groups, be they political, be they on this side of the House, be they from other parties, or be they in the housing industry; be they developers, be they indeed the tenants' associations, which increasingly are expressing to me their very grave concern that, "This minister doesn't listen, this minister doesn't pay attention to us, this minister does whatever she wants."

I put that on the record today, not that it is my nature, and indeed it is not, but by way of explaining why I was not here from 5:30 to 6 o'clock last Thursday, I had to travel to Windsor to try to keep track of the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio), who has completely alienated the various interest groups. I had to speak to the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters.

I wish I could devote my full time to housing, but there are other responsibilities that this government is totally fouling up, where it is totally out of control, and one of them is the Ministry of Natural Resources. That is where I was from 5:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday.

1730

I want to put a couple of things on the record, with the rent review system in particular, that I did not have an opportunity to do on Thursday. I did not want to take the full amount of time. I wanted to provide enough time for the minister to respond while I was still here. As I have already indicated, I was here for most, but not all, of it.

Perhaps I could talk a bit about the rent review system in particular. There is a crisis situation in the rental housing market. Thousands of people are lined up on public housing authority waiting lists across Ontario. There are more than 16,000 rent review applications backlogged in the rent review system, a number that I suspect will probably go up and be substantially higher once landlords, and tenant associations as well, get some sense that there is some reason to go ahead and file and that it will be quicker than two or three years before they are dealt with. I suspect that a number have been held back for that very reason.

Landlords who face rental increases face a process that is so complicated and difficult to

follow that John Bassel, president of the Fair Rental Policy Organization of Ontario, has said: "The time and money landlords waste just reading the set of instructions provided by the Ministry of Housing, let alone trying to fill out the forms, is appalling."

Those are dollars, time and effort that the private sector is forced to expend that are not going in to providing affordable housing. Who picks up those dollars? They are added on to the cost of doing business. Of course, when something is inefficient and complex and difficult to understand, it not only creates additional backlog problems but also adds to the cost. It adds to the cost just as a lot levy does, just as the cost of material does and just as—of course, we all know the big one—the cost of land does.

I believe it is appalling for the landlords to be faced with this type of situation. It is just as appalling for the tenants, of whom many, if not most, would find it very difficult to go out and hire the expertise required to understand the legislation. There are not many things that landlords and tenants agree on, but this indeed is one of them, that the existing rent review system does not work.

The minister says she is proud of her legislation. I do not think she has to say that, because it was not her legislation. But I respect the fact that, as a minister of the crown, she is supportive of the work that was done by her predecessor and, indeed, by the government. She has said on a number of occasions that she is proud of the legislation because it balances the needs of both the landlords and the tenants. The only balancing it does is it makes it equally difficult to understand and equally inaccessible for both. It does not indeed serve the needs of both groups. The existing system of rent review serves the needs of neither the landlords nor the tenants.

In my view, the minister and her predecessor and this government have created a huge bureaucracy in an attempt to make what are proving to be unworkable laws work. They have set up rent registries, established the Residential Rental Standards Board, created guideline rates for annual increases—all laudable, applaudable goals and objectives. But what are the results? The system now costs more than \$40 million to administer, an increase of \$32.6 million from what was in place before. The minister can argue that what was in place before was not as broad. Maybe there were some things that did not work very well, but a \$32.6-million increase, to a total

of \$40 million, is getting close to a 500 per cent increase.

The response of this minister and of the former minister has been to throw more money, more staff, more civil servants and more resources at this problem, I guess on the assumption that if you are able to throw enough money at the problem, eventually it may work. Landlords and tenants are united that the problem is not money, that the problem is not the number of staff, but the problem is that the legislation itself is flawed. I think the record has been virtually that the more money that has been thrown at it, the worse the problem has become.

I would suggest to the minister that instead of continuing to defend that particular piece of legislation, perhaps one or two of those additional hundreds, I guess, of civil servants might turn their attention to, "How can we make changes to the legislation if it's still necessary to see if we can't make it work a little better?"

There are a number of things that need to be addressed. Is the rent review backlog really declining? Is the commitment of much more resources giving the result that one would expect? We are dealing with a rent review process that allows for an award to be higher than the amount asked for. My colleague from the New Democratic Party has raised this very issue with the minister on a number of occasions. The member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) has talked about decisions of the Rent Review Hearings Board awarding rent increases higher than the amount applied for by the landlord.

Each time that question has been asked, the minister has the pat response—I will try to paraphrase it or come out with it as best I can—that the process is intended to consider all the relevant information and make a decision which is both fair to the landlord and the tenant. I understand that is the goal of the process. But the crux of the matter is whether this minister feels that it is appropriate, in a general way, that the rent review process, under this current legislation, increases the rent more than the landlord has requested.

Let me give the minister a specific example, not an actual example but to specify: A landlord serves his tenant with a notice that his or her rent will increase by 15 per cent. The landlord says: "Indeed, the guideline of 4.6 is not enough for me to operate this building in an efficient or acceptable manner. I require 15 per cent." The tenant thinks this increase is unjustified and begins the rent review process. By means of the rent review process, after considering all the

pertinent information, the maximum rent is determined and the rent increase is set at 25 per cent or 42 per cent.

We have examples where this is happening. The landlord is saying: "I don't need that much money. I don't want that much money. I'd like to be free to charge my tenant less money. This is the amount of money that I think is appropriate." If, instead of fighting this and going through all the processes, the tenant would say, "I agree this is the amount that should be there," then presumably the two of them can make a case that it should be 15 per cent. But the tenant under this legislation says: "No, I'm going through this process. I want to find out what's going on." And what happens? He or she is now faced with an increase substantially higher than the 15 per cent. Is that the way the legislation is supposed to work?

I, for the life of me, do not think that is the way life in general works. If two people can come to an understanding on rent and the government, with this legislation that is designed to protect tenants and presumably to keep rents lower, comes along with the mechanism it put in place and says, "No, the rent should be higher than that; I know the landlord might be happier with less, but it should be higher," then I think there is something wrong.

We have a system in place that has taken common sense, among a lot of other things, completely out of the marketplace. But just on that one specific example, I could not understand how the minister could not at least agree with my colleague the member for Oshawa when he raised it: "Yes, there's something wrong here. That is not the intention of this process; and yes, I think I should be looking at that and we should be looking at those situations. Clearly, we don't want those situations to occur."

1740

I do not think it is right, I do not think it is fair; and I do not think the minister would agree it is right and fair, but she has to acknowledge that. She cannot just give the pat old answer time after time after time. We know that the legislation is designed to be fair to tenants and landlords. We know that. We do not think anybody intentionally drafted legislation not to be fair. Even I, one of the staunchest critics of this government, of this Premier, of this cabinet, of this minister and of the former minister, do not think they intentionally are trying to draft legislation to cause further problems.

When those questions are raised, whether it is me or whether it is somebody else, we are

looking, as I think the landlords and the tenants and the people of Ontario are looking, for a minister to seriously accept our questions and concerns and to seriously want to sit down and address them. That is what I think the people of Ontario are entitled to. That is what I think tenants and landlords and those who have a vested interest in the housing situation, be they providers or be they consumers or potential home owners, expect and that is what they deserve, I believe, and I have been somewhat critical that I do not get the sense that that is what they are getting.

If I am wrong the minister undoubtedly will correct me, but I suggest to her that there are a number of groups out there that do not feel that they are being listened to and that they are being appreciated or being understood and that best efforts are being made. It may be that they are, but that is not the perception. I think the minister would agree with me on that and I think that is an important thing that must be addressed by this administration and, I would suggest, by her.

The Rental Housing Protection Act is a tremendous disincentive for private sector involvement in the housing field. Very often there are conflicts that come into play.

Many would say speculation tax is un-Conservative, and yet it was a Conservative government that brought in a speculation tax because it recognized a problem that was there and it recognized that this problem was accelerating faster than it had planned for—faster, for whatever reason, than it had been able to cope with—and that, as a temporary measure, it was required to give some time to get to the real problems.

I am not a great proponent of substantial intervention in the marketplace, save and except we are here to serve all Ontarians and when there are severe problems, intervention in the marketplace is required and I acknowledge that. In the type of intervention such as the speculation tax that was brought in by my predecessors, before my time by a Conservative Party, certainly the reasons for doing so were legitimate at the time to get at the problems, to get time to solve the problems.

I suggest to the minister that through a number of the actions that this government has taken over the past three and a half years it has not provided solutions to the problems, it has in fact compounded the problems; it has been part of the problem itself.

Unless it is willing to identify and acknowledge those problems, unless it is willing to work

constructively with all the players—because I think we would all acknowledge that if it is going to drive, inadvertently I am sure, the private sector completely out of the affordable housing market, it must examine the reasons why the private sector feels alienated, why it is being driven out and how to get it back in; or the government must do it all itself. I do not believe, particularly given what I have heard from this current Treasurer, that this government believes or has any sense that it is going to have the resources to solve these problems all by itself.

I suggest to the minister that in the whole rental problem, which I did not have an opportunity on Thursday to spend as much time on as I would have liked, there are also only two options: you either buy something or you rent. Whether you buy a single-family home, a duplex or a condominium, be it a row-type condominium or whether it is a co-op you actually own, or whether it is a co-op where you are a tenant as well as the manager, or whether you are a tenant, clearly what is happening is that all of these problems are getting worse.

The options are getting less and less affordable. We have driven vast sums of money, developers, builders, the whole private sector right out of having any sense that—I think they want to be involved, I think they would like to be involved. I think they would like to be part of the solution; but they have not felt they are wanted or needed or are going to be given an opportunity to be part of the solution.

I do not think that the minister intentionally does that or that the Premier intentionally does that. It may be that there is some philosophical bent rampant throughout this current administration that unavoidably causes this to happen. I suggest, in the interests of this administration, that if that is the case it had better change that bent, had better change that attitude, because the problems will continue to get worse and worse. Indeed, I do not think it has enough money to solve the problem alone as a government.

I offer those suggestions and comments, and a few questions, I guess, that I have asked along the way in addition to those I raised on Thursday.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I am pleased to welcome the member back from his trips following the Minister of Natural Resources around. I am glad he is back on Housing. I am delighted to see him here.

He was talking about rent review and commented about some of the problems he sees in the legislation. Let me say to him that, yes, we have spent a lot of resources on making sure the

administration of the legislation goes more quickly. It is as a result of the resources we have spent and the effort we have made that we have reduced the backlog from more than 25,000 applications to 16,000 applications. I am happy to see that change. It represents an enormous amount of work, an enormous amount of commitment and a significant outlay of resources.

The alternative would have been not to protect the tenants of the province from unjustified rent increases, not to protect the tenants of the province from the possibility of having rents raised more than once a year, not to protect the tenants of the province in relation to key money, not to protect the tenants of the province in relation to having buildings turned into suite hotels and not to protect the tenants of the province from unreasonable maintenance standards.

It seems to me we made a decision on the benefits and the costs that is defensible. I, too, wish we did not have such an enormous amount of work to do at one moment, as we did when the legislation was passed, but we took that responsibility on and it is now our responsibility to give it the resources to work through and do the appropriate administration of the legislation.

I have no idea what the member has been doing the past few weeks, but it seems to me that especially in these estimates debates there is a kind of lugubrious tone in which he raises his concerns. I have no comment to make about that, but let me tell him that what I think is important is that something like 80 per cent of our tenants in Ontario are facing rent increases just about at the guideline.

They believe, and say they believe, that they are glad to have that protection from unjustified rent increases. They are glad to know what their rents are going to be. In a situation in which prices for various forms of housing are going up very high, and we discussed this in the earlier part of the estimates debate, and in which ownership prices are going up in a way that is very distressing, the renters in this province feel, rightly, that there is protection for them through our rent review legislation. The vast majority of our tenants face increases at or near the guideline.

1750

The others who are going through rent review because the landlord has said there need to be some other expenses accounted for because of massive capital expenses or other kinds of expenses associated with the building are being treated as well as we know how, with as much

energy and commitment as we know how to give. I think that is something that indicates the commitment of the province to the protection of tenants.

Earlier, the honourable member also mentioned that I was proud of some legislation. I am indeed proud of some legislation and I have said so very explicitly. I am very proud of the new Rental Housing Protection Act which we have brought forward. He says the people in the landlord community are distressed by that. I know that, because I talked with them, with people in the tenant community and with other interested parties.

Here was a situation in which we, as a government, had to make a difficult choice. There was no way in which every possible interest group could have been equally happy. We made that difficult choice. It is one of the jobs of government to make tough choices, and we made them.

The member himself said, if I may quote him, "We are here to serve all Ontarians." I agree with that. We are here to serve all Ontarians, and we made a tough choice on the Rental Housing Protection Act, at a time of housing shortages in the rental area and at a time of very significant growth and pressures in the province, that the three million tenants we have living in rental accommodation should have the protection of knowing that their accommodation was not going to be turned into something else. They can live in those apartments with some degree of security and know their homes are going to stay there for them. For people who live in rental accommodation, that is their home. We have every reason to want to see them as protected as they can possibly be under these circumstances.

As to saying that the private sector has been driven out of housing, I do not understand where that comes from. We are talking about the single biggest industry in the province, construction, which in the past few years on the housing side has been, I venture to say, one of the most profitable places any business person could possibly be. They are building homes all over the province. They are building condominiums all over the province. They are making a lot of money.

I believe it is appropriate at a time of growth that the people in the building industry should be both building and making a living. It is their job to do that, and that is fine. But I think it is a little disingenuous to suggest that somehow the private sector has been hard done by. It seems to me the private sector is doing very well.

Mr. Harris: I said they have been driven out of the affordable housing sector.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The member mentioned that they have been driven out of the affordable housing sector. I do not think that is true. Let me just give him one example. We are building 30,000 nonprofit housing units in our own unilateral provincial program. Who is going to build those? The people who are going to build those are the people I meet regularly, who are part of the Ontario Home Builders' Association and the Urban Development Institute, all the people who build. It is the private sector that builds this stuff.

Mr. Harris: If you are prepared to pay for them all, they will build them.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The member says if I am prepared to pay for them all, they will build them. We are paying for them all and they are building them. It is the private sector that is building all this nonprofit housing. They are very glad to do so, as they should be, because it is good housing and they are doing a good job building it. I think we have a very clear indication that the private sector is happily involved in the building of housing, both profit housing and nonprofit housing, all over the province.

As to the question of the whole view of the development industry and what we are doing, let me just say that we have many interests in common with the development industry and we talk with people in it all the time.

Mr. Breagh: You certainly do.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I am in an interesting position, because the member for Oshawa complains that we are too involved with the private sector, and the member for Nipissing says we are not involved enough with the private sector. It seems to me we are in exactly the right place.

It seems to me also that the member should know that, yes, we have a lot of interests in common with the people who are home builders, but we do not have identical interests in common. Let me quote what the member himself said, "We are here to serve all Ontarians." In those areas in which our interests and our values overlap, we are very happy to work with them, but there are times when we disagree with them, where our interests are not the same. If they choose to represent that as not listening to them, I am extremely sorry, because we listen to them and we talk to them; we just do not always agree with them.

The same thing is true with everyone else we listen to. The job of government is to talk to people and to listen to people, then in the end we have to choose; in the end not everyone will be happy. That is what it means to make hard choices. I am happy to continue to talk with all the people involved in housing issues in the province: landlords, tenants, builders, community groups. I am doing that; I continue to do that; I will continue to do that.

I learn a great deal from my conversations with the people across the province about what we could do better. We do the best we know how in terms of responding to those concerns, but no one should be under the illusion that talking and listening means that we will agree with everyone. We cannot; we cannot agree with everyone and act. If we are going to act, we are going to make choices and we are not going to agree with everyone. I think that is appropriate.

Mr. Harris: I have a lot of other questions to raise and there will not be time to do that today, but let me respond to the minister in this way: The minister indicates that people in the development industry and the builders are mad at her; I guess she also said that the Conservative Party seemed to be mad at her for one reason, the New Democratic Party for another reason, and therefore she was probably in exactly the right place.

Mr. Breagh: Everybody is disgusted with her and she does not know the difference.

Mr. Harris: That is right. Because apparently everybody from both sides of the problem is mad at her—be it a conservative party or a socialist party; be it a builder or a tenant—indeed I would suggest to the minister that yes, there are tough choices to make, but she would want those groups to respect those choices. She would want those groups to say, “Here is legislation that does not favour one group or the other group, but indeed is workable.”

What she has is that everybody is mad at her. She had landlords saying the legislation is terrible—it contributes to the cost; to the supply problem; it is not working—and she had tenants who are saying the same thing, “We do not like this legislation.”

The other thing is, I do not understand why she is so defensive and why her government is so defensive about this legislation that landlords helped to develop and that tenants helped to develop, where there was certainly a hope that it

was in fact going to be workable. Initially it had the support of both sides, so I think it was worth while trying and worth while proceeding with. But what happened was that those very players who were brought to the table by the former minister are now saying, “We were wrong.”

This government has a tremendous opportunity to say that it is not just its legislation, it is legislation that indeed involved both sides: landlords and tenants; builders and condominium people. Everybody was involved in it, so that those major players are now saying, “We thought it would work and it is not working,” and they are willing to come back and start to look at it. I do not understand why that is so difficult for the government to accept.

Second, the minister said that she is proud of having brought in legislation to protect tenants from key money, from rent increases, from renovations, from being kicked out, from losing their homes; to protect, to protect, to protect.

I understand the need for protection. What the minister and what this government really should be looking at is why we need legislation to protect tenants from key money. Why do we need legislation to protect these units from the owners wanting to tear them down? Why do we need protection for increases that may be excessive? Why do we need all that? That is the fundamental problem. Why are all these protections necessary? They are necessary because those people involved in providing apartments, in providing modest and low-income housing, say: “We cannot make any money at that. We do not want to be in that business. We want to be in a different business. If you will pay us, we will build them as builders, but we cannot afford to stay in that business.”

It is the why that I do not see any sense or sign that the minister or the government are interested in solving, and until we solve the why we need all these protections we will need these protections.

Given that the protections are not working and that both groups are unhappy with them, I think there are two areas that this minister has to work on.

Given the time, I will sit down so you can have this committee rise; I would be glad to do that.

On motion by Mr. Harris, the committee of supply reported progress.

The House adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

- Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breaugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)
Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health (Oriole L)
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)
Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)
 Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC)
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)
Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)
Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A., Speaker (Perth L)
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)
Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L)
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)
Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)
Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)
 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)
Grandmaitre, Hon. Bernard C., Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)
 Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)
 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)
Hošek, Hon. Chaviva, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)
 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)
 Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L)
Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G., Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L)
 Kormos, Peter (Welland-Thorold NDP)
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)
Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)
 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)
 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)
 Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)
 MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)
 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)
Mancini, Hon. Remo, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)
 Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)
 Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP)
 Matrundola, Gino (Willowdale L)
 McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)
 McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)
 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)
 McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)
 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)
McLeod, Hon. Lyn, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)
 Miclash, Frank (Kenora L)

- Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)
 Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)
 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)
Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier,
 Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Eco-
 nomics and Minister of Financial Institutions
 (Brant-Haldimand L)
Oddie Munro, Hon. Lily, Minister of Culture
 and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)
O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and
 Recreation (Quinte L)
 O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)
 Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)
Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government
 Services (Ottawa Centre L)
 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)
Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and Presi-
 dent of the Council and Minister of Inter-
 governmental Affairs (London Centre L)
 Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)
Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship
 (Scarborough-Agincourt L)
 Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of
 the Committees of the Whole House (Prescott
 and Russell L)
 Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)
 Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)
 Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)
 Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)
 Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)
 Rae, Bob (York South NDP)
Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional
 Services (Timiskaming L)
 Ray, Michael C., Deputy Chairman of the
 Committees of the Whole House (Windsor-
 Walkerville L)
 Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)
 Reyecraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)
Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and
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 Roberts, Marietta L. D. (Elgin L)
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No. 150

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 34th Parliament
Tuesday, February 21, 1989



Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, February 21, 1989

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES

Hon. Mr. Elston: I have a message from His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, who transmits supplementary estimates of certain additional sums required for the services of the province for the year ending March 31, 1989, and recommends them to the Legislative Assembly.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

GRAY COACH LINES LTD.

Ms. Bryden: I am gravely disturbed by the news that Gray Coach Lines is planning to abandon the Owen Sound to Barrie and the Kitchener to London bus routes on March 5, 1989. I would like to ask the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Fulton) if he has approved this plan.

Gray Coach, which is wholly owned by the Toronto Transit Commission, was given exclusive rights over profitable routes many years ago, with an obligation to provide quality service for less-profitable and even money-losing routes. Is the minister prepared to let them abandon this responsibility? Is it in the public interest to return to the chaotic situation of unco-ordinated private bus line operators which preceded the establishment of Gray Coach Lines and produced a variety of standards of service?

The March 5 closedown of the Gray Coach routes will leave a substantial number of residents in the areas served by these routes with no reliable alternative public transportation. It will also result in the loss of jobs for a large number of Gray Coach employees located in these communities.

I urge the minister to refuse approval of the line abandonment until he has listened to the residents and the employees affected and is prepared to guarantee that the ministry will see that quality service is provided to these areas. I also urge him to give us a policy statement on the privatization of the bus transportation service in this province.

POLICE OFFICERS

Mr. Runciman: In the absence of a statement yesterday from the Solicitor General (Mrs.

Smith), I would like to express the Progressive Conservative Party's wishes for a speedy recovery to the two police officers wounded this past weekend.

The assaults once again draw attention to the dangers inherent in police work and should give us all pause for thought with respect to the barrage of criticism, much of it unproven and unwarranted, that has been directed at police officers and officials over the past few months.

Throughout all of the recent verbal assaults on police, the Solicitor General has been consistent—consistent in her lack of support for police. This weekend she once again quickly jerked her knee and joined in the chorus of those criticizing a police officer for revealing statistics that were requested of him by the North York race relations committee; statistics that, by the way, just told it like it is.

The message to police across this province is clear: Beware of this Solicitor General. She is no friend of the men and women putting their lives on the line for all of us, every day of the week, right across this province.

BRIAN STEMMLER

Mr. Beer: As honourable members will recall, on Saturday, January 14, 1989, Brian Stemmler, one of Canada's finest competitive skiers, was badly injured at a downhill event in Europe. Since his accident, Brian, a resident of Aurora in my riding, has been confined to hospital and he is now at Sunnybrook Medical Centre in Toronto slowly recovering from the severe injuries he received.

Brian Stemmler is the kind of young man with a great deal of drive and focus on the job at hand. I am sure we can all understand the frustration he must feel at the present time, confined as he is to a hospital bed.

We all recall how Brian injured his knee shortly before the Olympics in Calgary last year yet he still tried to compete. This year he was making his mark on the world circuit when he had his accident.

Brian is the kind of young athlete we Canadians are now producing in many key sports areas. He is dedicated to showing that with excellent coaching, solid facilities and strong

personal drive and determination, Canadians can compete with the best in the world.

I believe that I speak for all of us in this Legislature in wishing Brian Stemmle a complete recovery from his injuries and a full and productive life ahead.

PROPERTY SPECULATION

Mr. Farnan: Young couples must ask themselves why a government would sit idly by as speculation continues to drive up the cost of housing. All members of this assembly already have or are in a position to purchase a piece of the real estate pie. We have our homes, and the increased value of properties caused by speculation is in fact increasing the value of our properties.

When young couples examine the makeup of the present Liberal cabinet, they find that a significant number of the key cabinet members are extremely comfortable financially. Is this why the government is so complacent?

In 1988 the cost of the average home in Cambridge rose 30 per cent, from \$105,000 in January 1988 to \$140,000 in January 1989. The costs continue to spiral and the major factor in this increasing cost is speculation. If we were in the position where we did not yet own our own homes and could see costs increasing across the province, I can guarantee we, as members of this assembly, would not be so complacent.

Is the time not long overdue for the government to take the heat out of the housing market by immediately imposing a speculation tax on the purchase of all homes that are not a primary residence?

PROVINCIAL PARKS

Mr. McLean: My statement is directed to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr. O'Neil) and concerns his government's new parks policy.

I have to wonder if the Minister of Tourism and Recreation had any input into this new policy. I wonder if he was even consulted when the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) dreamed up his new parks policy that bans so-called nonconforming uses, including hunting and fishing, in Ontario's parks.

Does the Minister of Tourism and Recreation not realize that these uses are major drawing cards for attracting visitors to our parks from throughout Ontario, the rest of Canada and even the United States? Hunting and fishing have been carried out in our parks for years without

damaging the environment or interfering with people who visit our parks for other purposes.

As well, the minister should have stepped in and pointed to a report commissioned by the Ministry of Natural Resources that indicates the people of Ontario do not really want more provincial parks. The Laventhol and Horwath report also goes on to suggest that people are not driving more than one or two hours to use a park and that the tourist marketplace for the use of provincial parks is flat. The government chose to ignore this report and went ahead, establishing 53 new parks. It forgot about the hunters and fishermen.

Since this government took office, the roads are continuously going downhill.

1340

GEORGE LESLIE SMITH

Mr. D. W. Smith: It is with sympathy that I inform the House of the passing of George Leslie Smith on February 15. He was from Brights Grove, Ontario, which is in my riding of Lambton. He was 66 years of age.

George Smith was one who possessed a wealth of historical knowledge about Lambton county. His love of history and his collection of artefacts was recognized and utilized by the citizens of both the county of Lambton and the city of Sarnia.

He was an active community volunteer and contributed to many worthwhile projects such as the founding of the Clearwater Public Library and the founding of a children's art class sponsored by the Sarnia Public Library.

An accomplished speaker, Mr. Smith spoke to numerous audiences on historic subjects. His talents were also published in his first book, entitled *The Bluewater Highway*, along with his latest publication, entitled *The Street Names of Sarnia*.

George Smith will be greatly missed in Lambton county. I would like to extend my sincere sympathy to his wife, Maxine, and their children.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

Mr. McLean: My statement is directed to the Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Mr. Elston). It concerns increases to ministry staff.

The Ontario public service staffing increased by 6,884 employees between March 31, 1985, and March 31, 1988. During that time, there were 335 ministry staff added to the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation; 371 to the Ministry of

Labour; 457 to the Ministry of the Environment; 592 to the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines; and a whopping 1,595 staff added to the Ministry of Correctional Services.

I would not be so concerned if these public service staff were actually those men and women who are out in the field doing the work, but they are not; they are in the ministries, drawing large salaries which this government increased when it came to power.

The Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet is supposed to have proper control of ministry budgets and staffing. It appears he does not. He and his government have embarked on a program of empire-building. He and his government should be ashamed of the extra staff they have hired and the increased amount of money that is being spent for administration.

MINING ACCIDENT

MORT ACCIDENTELLE DANS LES MINES

Hon. Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a short statement on the mine fatality in South Porcupine yesterday.

Mr. Speaker: Is there agreement?

Agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Very briefly, I would like to express, on behalf of the government, our condolences to the families and the colleagues of those three miners who were fatally injured at the Placer Dome mine in South Porcupine in the Timmins area.

I can inform the House that the mine health and safety branch of the Ministry of Labour was contacted at approximately 1:30 yesterday afternoon. The branch immediately responded by providing nonfire emergency rescue equipment and other technical advice. The recovery operation was completed, I believe, at 8:15 last evening.

The Ministry of Labour is actively involved in the investigation of the circumstances that caused this tragic loss of life at that particular mine, and I can assure the House that we will keep members abreast of the findings of that examination.

Again, on behalf of the government, I want to express our condolences to the families of those who were killed yesterday.

Mr. Mackenzie: Just as a very brief response to the minister's comments, we join with him in sending our condolences to the families of those involved. We think, however, it is important to raise at least a couple of issues as a result of this unfortunate fatality in the mine.

There are all too many mine deaths in Ontario. It is a situation that has not really improved and it probably underlines as much as anything else the need for the continuing extension of health and safety services in Ontario, as well as training programs, particularly for miners in underground operations.

We wonder why this unfortunate accident would have a piece in the paper which indicated that the men were in a section of the mine known as the widow-maker. Obviously, there had been previous accidents and fatalities in that particular section of the mine. This raises some questions in our minds, as I am sure it will in those of the workers involved, as to just what kind of planning and what kind of precautions are taken to protect the workers in a situation like this. We hope that this will help to underline the need for some of the safety and health legislation that we are now thinking of in Ontario.

Mr. McCague: I rise to endorse the comments made by the government House leader and by the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie). This tragic passing of three people is something we hope will never happen but it seems to continue to do so. The wise counsel of those much more familiar than I with the circumstances should be heeded on all occasions. We in our party send condolences to all those close to those who have passed on.

M. Pouliot: Je suis convaincu que tous les membres de l'Assemblée législative voudront se joindre aux familles, à la ville de Timmins, ainsi qu'à la communauté minière de l'Ontario, pour offrir leurs condoléances.

Hier, à la mine Placer Dome, des équipes de secours ont lutté et oeuvré durant sept heures afin de sauver la vie des trois mineurs ensevelis quelque 1200 pieds sous terre. Hélas, leurs efforts furent en vain...

On nous a communiqué qu'il semble que la mort de ces trois mineurs ait été instantanée. Les députés se souviendront qu'en 1982, un jeune mineur de 18 ans a perdu la vie dans le même secteur de cette mine et que, l'an dernier, un autre mineur a succombé à une chute dans un puits au même endroit. Ironiquement, la zone la plus profitable d'une mine est souvent la plus dangereuse. Le travail de mineur est difficile et parfois dangereux. A cause des maladies industrielles et des accidents, cette carrière est hélas souvent très courte. Il faudra donc continuer à oeuvrer pour s'assurer que ces gens, qui contribuent tellement aux bénéfices économiques de l'Ontario, seront protégés à l'avenir.

Mr. Speaker: When the official record of the House, Hansard, is printed, I will, on behalf of all members, make certain that the families of the miners receive the members' words of sympathy.

ORAL QUESTIONS

HOUSING ON GOVERNMENT LAND

Mr. B. Rae: My question is for the Minister of Housing. Last week the minister said, "This government has made a commitment that on our land we are going to make sure that people get homes they can afford to buy and homes they can afford to live in."

I want to draw the minister's attention to a proposal from Centennial College in Metropolitan Toronto to sell off three acres of land at the corner of Pape and Mortimer avenues for \$10 million to a company called H and R Developments in co-operation with Drachma Enterprises. It is the intention of this developer to build a 13-storey, 295-unit condominium building. None of the units in that proposal will be of a nonmarket kind; they will all be sold at whatever price the market will bear.

Does this kind of development on land that is indirectly owned by the taxpayers of this province conform with her statement last week, that on government land people are going to get homes they can afford to buy and homes they can afford to live in?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: My statement the other day referred to our Housing First policy, as the member very well knows. Our Housing First policy says that on lands which are declared surplus by the government and are designated surplus, we will either use that land for the purpose of developing communities of mixed income in which at least 35 per cent of the housing will be affordable, or if a piece of land is not suitable for that purpose and will be sold, then the money that comes into the Treasury as a result of that is given to the housing development fund.

That is the way the Housing First policy works. It deals with land that is declared surplus to the usage of various ministries. The member has already seen that there are eight pieces of land we have announced are going to be dealt with in that way. He will be seeing more.

1350

Mr. B. Rae: As to this land in question, I am sure the minister will know where Pape and Mortimer is. It is not too far from where she herself lives. She knows exactly the corner I am referring to.

I want to ask the minister this simple question: Centennial College has obviously declared this land surplus. Other universities and colleges are sitting on vast tracks of public land, much of which is now about to be developed or is being proposed for development. I want to ask the minister very specifically, is she saying land that is sold off by these universities and community colleges is not subject to the policy statement that at least 35 per cent of housing built on the land will in fact be affordable housing?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: We have been working with the Ministry of Colleges and Universities and we are going to consider all proposals for affordable housing on our lands. Those lands must be declared surplus by the ministry in question and then go to the Ministry of Government Services for the purpose of development of the land. We are in the middle of conversations, of course, with all ministries about this and we are working with the Ministry of Colleges and Universities on any lands that are declared surplus by that ministry.

Mr. B. Rae: I do not think I heard an answer to the question. I asked a question, first of all, about a particular project and I did not get an answer. I then asked a question about universities and colleges and I have not had an answer. I want to ask the minister to come back, then; since she was not able to answer the first question and she was not able to answer the second question, I will give her one more chance.

She set out her policy in this House on Thursday when she said—I am quoting from her on Thursday—"We have made our commitment to make sure at least 35 per cent of the units built on our land are affordable." In the words of the old song, "This land is my land, this land is your land," I want to know whose land is this land when it comes to Centennial College, when it comes to other universities and colleges and bodies whose land is in fact paid for indirectly by the taxpayers of this province. What is her policy? Is that the land that is covered under the 35 per cent policy or is it not?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The land that is owned by the various colleges comes under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Colleges and Universities. If any land is declared surplus by the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, it then becomes part of our land, which can be used and will be used for meeting the housing needs of the people of the province. I think that is clear. We are working with all the ministries to increase that supply of land. I know the member will be very, very interested in those pieces of land that are already

in the development process and I welcome his questions on the development that is going to follow.

TEACHERS

Mr. R. F. Johnston: My question is for the Minister of Education. On January 12, in response to a question, he indicated that he did not think there was going to be a great teacher shortage this year, that there were going to be 4,000 potential new teachers and only 3,000 needed within the system. Today in the *Globe and Mail*, the projections on enrolment and teacher shortages indicate that across the country there will be 30,000 teachers short in the next little while and that Ontario is going to follow a trend of much higher shortages than the other areas.

Does the Minister of Education stick by what he said on January 12; and if he does, how does he explain that my information is that the 20 boards in and around Metropolitan Toronto alone are going to need over 3,000 new teachers this year?

Hon. Mr. Ward: I appreciate the member's question on this very important issue. There is no question that in the short term there will be difficult times for school boards in terms of the availability of qualified teachers. I believe I have indicated in responses in this House on previous occasions our concern over that particular issue. I think I have also outlined for the benefit of the member and others the steps the government is prepared to take to address the issue in the long term.

It is important to note that after 19 years of declining enrolment, we have entered a period of increased enrolment province-wide. That is expected to last until the middle 1990s as a result of baby-boomers having children who are now accessing the system. We have taken steps to increase the supply, the numbers of teachers in this province, without lowering standards and will continue to do so to address both the short-term pressures and the long-term need for qualified teachers in this province.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The minister knows there has been a colossal poverty of planning in this whole process. We have known this boom was coming. I wonder what he says to the Dufferin-Peel Roman Catholic Separate School Board which itself is expecting to hire for 500 new positions and expects to be 150 short this fall. It is interviewing in the west of Canada and is interviewing in Newfoundland to try to find teachers for this fall. What does he say to that

board which may itself face a 150-person shortage this fall?

Hon. Mr. Ward: Let me begin by suggesting to the member that the very last thing we want to do is abandon any sort of long-range planning process. There is no question that the early retirement window that is being taken advantage of this year by many experienced teachers in this province will in fact create immediate short-term pressure. There is no question that government initiatives, such as our efforts to reduce class sizes in grades 1 and 2, create pressure. It was for that reason that we put into place a three-year implementation program, but I think—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: What wonderful hindsight that is.

Hon. Mr. Ward: I said that at the time. The member accuses me of having hindsight. He will recall I made that statement at the time of the announcement. It is clear, in looking at the picture in the long term, that in terms of the analysis as to the future year-in requirements for additional permanent qualified teachers, it is expected we will require an additional 1,000 teachers per year above and beyond the levels in 1987.

The member will know that through the generosity of the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon), utilizing the program adjustment fund through the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, we created 562 additional teaching positions in the faculties this September and I believe we will—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. B. Rae: Our children don't go to school in the long term.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: As my leader was just saying, our children do not go to primary school in the long term, they are there this year. The government is essentially condemning kids to a school lifetime in portables, and now to real uncertainty whether or not they are going to have an adequate number of teachers. I do not believe he knows what he is dealing with out there.

Can he tell me specifically today what the deficits will be this fall in the areas he has already identified, math, sciences, kindergarten, primary and French? Does he know that? Does he even know how many women are coming out of the faculties? Does he have any of the statistical information he really needs to plan at all?

Hon. Mr. Ward: I am quite satisfied that indeed we do have that statistical information. In fact, the ministry had undertaken a supply study of the teaching profession in this province. The member talks at length about very serious

deficiencies that exist out there in the primary division, for example. He will know that we are in the second year of the 20-to-one implementation. What he may not know is that we have been able not only to meet the target in the first year of that implementation, but have exceeded it, obviously with the utilization of qualified primary teachers in this province.

I will acknowledge that for the short term, for the next two years, there is going to be a very difficult situation for boards. We are doing what we can to attract back into the teaching profession those thousands of qualified teachers who graduated from the faculties and chose not to pursue the profession. Many of them are coming back. Many occasional teachers are now seeking permanent positions.

We have increased by over 500 the positions at the faculty. I am quite convinced that without sacrificing the quality of teaching, without lowering our standards, we can address both the short-term and long-term needs of the school system.

1400

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Mr. Runciman: My question is for the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs. It is an issue I drew to her attention last week, but she carefully avoided answering it. It deals with her response to media questions related to the impact of auto insurance increases on seniors.

The minister will recall that she indicated she felt the impact would be marginal. Press reports today indicate seniors in various regions of the province are facing increases of 21 per cent, 29 per cent, 48 per cent, 59 per cent and so on, increases that I suspect most reasonable people would not consider marginal.

The minister has had a week to reflect on her words, and hopefully, on her responsibilities as the seniors' advocate in government. Will she tell the House if she still stands by her view that increases such as 58 per cent will have a marginal impact on seniors; and if not, what is she doing to help the more than 500,000 drivers for whom she is supposed to advocate?

Hon. Mrs. Wilson: The insurance companies are now calculating their new rates. Those rates will be made public in March. Until such time as they do so, any rates that may be discussed are purely speculative and those that are appearing in newspapers today are just that, possible rates that may or may not be the rates that are actually published in March.

I think it appropriate that we see what those rates will be. In the meantime, I am working very closely with my colleague the Minister of Financial Institutions (Mr. Elston) to bring to him the concerns that are brought forward to me by seniors as individuals and by seniors' groups across the province, so we can have an opportunity to discuss those actual rates.

Mr. Runciman: That is typical, an after-the-fact response, a crisis-to-crisis kind of response. As the spokesperson around the cabinet table for senior citizens—

Mr. Harris: Supposedly.

Mr. Runciman: Yes, supposedly—will the minister advise us of the role she and her officials played in the government's consideration of Bill 2, and specifically, the provision removing insurance companies' right to classify risk on age, thereby removing seniors' discounts and ignoring the safe driving habits of seniors? Did the minister voice any concerns at all? Did she stand up for seniors or did she just sit on the sidelines, not wishing to rock the Attorney General's (Mr. Scott) boat?

Hon. Mrs. Wilson: As the member opposite well knows, the new classification for insurance is no longer based on age, sex or marital status. Instead, it is based on classification of risk. Some of the figures that have been bandied about by the honourable member opposite, and by others, would indicate there are scenarios that may be possibilities, but which are highly unlikely to occur, given that companies at the low end of the market would wish to preserve their market share. I suggest the sorts of fears this member is attempting to sow within our older community are not appropriate and are in fact quite damaging.

Mr. Runciman: That is laughable. During the Bill 2 hearings back in 1987, throughout which I sat on the standing committee on administration of justice, witness after witness warned of the impact risk classification changes would have on seniors. Now, almost a year and a half after the fact, the minister is talking about consulting seniors and the Premier (Mr. Peterson) is talking about helping seniors.

Give us a break. There was obviously no concern 18 months ago, and now they are flying by the seat of their pants, ad hocking it from crisis to crisis. I regret to say the minister's performance in regard to seniors' auto insurance rates has been, to be polite, embarrassing. The minister has suggested that rate increases are marginal and that seniors are pretty flush anyway

and can handle the increases. She has turned a blind eye to the thousands on fixed incomes. She has ignored the—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Do you have a question?

Mr. Runciman: Is the minister finally prepared to stand up for seniors and demand the reinstitution of discounts across this province for senior citizens, the people she is supposed to be representing?

Hon. Mrs. Wilson: Seniors are a very diverse group. They cannot all be classified as sick, nor can they all be classified as poor. There are seniors who are not well off. There are seniors who depend very clearly on an automobile to get around. Issues of mobility are clearly very important to seniors.

It is for that reason that I am working very closely with the groups that represent seniors across this province, meeting with them, talking with them and advocating with my colleague the Minister of Financial Institutions so that we can bring forth their very real concerns and have them discussed, but at the same time making certain they know that the actual figures will come out a few weeks from now. It is not appropriate to frighten people at this point. It is appropriate to wait and determine what the actual figures will be.

GOVERNMENT PLANNING

Mr. Harris: I have a question for the Treasurer and Deputy Premier about the conflicting signals and interests being sent out by his government. The Premier (Mr. Peterson) said last week that he has given up on affordable housing in Metro. He told people to leave town if they want to buy homes. Yesterday, the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Fulton) told the Ontario Good Roads Association convention that community life is breaking down because people spend too much time fighting traffic on congested roads, a situation that will only worsen thanks to the lack of priority being given to roads.

Can the Treasurer tell us how the Premier's advice that home buyers leave town jibes with the Treasurer's refusal to give priority to transportation, traffic congestion and roads?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: To begin with, I agree with both those gentlemen. I want to point out to the member something he already knows; that is, that our commitment to the transportation budget is high, generous and I think quite progressive, and that under the leadership of this minister we have already had commitments made for the expansion of the highway system, including Highway 403 and Highway 407. There are

actually substantial commitments made in all parts of the province, including the north.

It is my job, of course, to see that it is funded in a reasonable way over a period of time. The member will notice that last year we were able to raise the amount available to the ministry to over \$2 billion. I wish more of that money could be spent at the municipal level, but the honourable member will know that even in that connection, in the three budgets I have already had the honour to present to the House, the increases for municipal roads have always been substantially above the rate of inflation. Even this year, the commitments to the municipalities are about 5.2 to 5.4 per cent.

I would be the last to say that is sufficient, but certainly when our priority is to provide adequate health services and improve the education system, then these are simply decisions that have to be taken, which I think are fair and effective.

Mr. Harris: I think the Treasurer has to realize that if he is not part of the solution, then he is part of the problem and he must accept that responsibility.

This government is fond of talking about spending levels and ignoring problems. This government likes to measure success in dollars spent, not results. The Minister of Transportation says the stress of commuting and traffic jams are hurting both workplace productivity and family life. The Premier's "Go west, young man" housing policies are going to make that situation worse. So we have a serious problem and it is getting worse.

We get conflicting signals from the Premier, from the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek), from the Minister of Transportation and from the Minister of Education (Mr. Ward), all going to solve these problems on the back of somebody else. We want to know what the government is doing about it.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: We are all concerned about housing. Under the leadership of the Minister of Housing, we have come forward with programs that are productive. I am sure the honourable member will be aware of, and might even want reiterated the fact that in the last three years we have had the following housing starts—105,000; 99,900; 86,000—which we feel have been an indication that more of our residents have been adequately housed than at any other time in our history. We have accomplished great things.

The Minister of Transportation has to drive in from Scarborough. I have to drive in from South Dumfries. We have the assistance of drivers while we are working diligently to extend our

working days from the ordinary 15 hours to 18 hours, but we are glad to do that so that the government programs are going to be co-ordinated and efficient. In this connection, we feel that any reasonable observer would have to agree.

1410

Mr. Harris: If it keeps some of the ministers away from their offices for three or four hours a day, it is probably beneficial.

The Minister of Transportation said, "One cannot participate in the life of the community if one is spending three to four hours a day commuting in traffic." That was his quote. He said, "Our service clubs, PTAs, local recreation groups are suffering." The minister knows there is a roads crisis. Our mayors and reeves know there is an infrastructure crisis. Home buyers and renters know there is a housing crisis. Everyone knows these problems are getting worse, not better, through the lack of overall planning by this government.

I believe people are tired of slogan-type programs or simplistic solutions to these complex problems. Surely someone must co-ordinate all these conflicting demands to generate an overall solution.

Mr. Speaker: Do you have a question?

Mr. Harris: My question is this: Is there anybody over there who is co-ordinating the difficult and conflicting interests of the Premier, the Minister of Housing, the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley), the Minister of Transportation and others? If there is, who is it and when are we going to see some results?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I would say to the honourable member that if he has any fairness left in him, he would know that we have one of the best transportation systems in North America.

Mr. Harris: We used to have.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I would be the last to deny the fact that under the leadership of the Honourable Leslie M. Frost we had a highways program that I wish we could duplicate as far as the commitment of money is concerned. But that was before the time of a concern for our environment. It was before the time of a huge increase in the cost of providing medical and hospital services. It was before the importance of seeing that our young people had adequate technical education to compete in a competitive world was fully realized. Under the leadership of the member for Scarborough East (Mr. Fulton), we have developed far beyond that—the commit-

ment to GO Transit, which the honourable member is aware of, and the expansion of our highway system—so that in a very effective way we have kept in step with the challenges as they came forward.

I wish we could spend more on highways. The honourable member would know that the minimal increases in gasoline taxes that have occurred since we have taken office have been applied almost exclusively to the improvement of our road system. The honourable member may feel that we should expand that tax base in order that the construction program could be expedited. I for one am not giving that serious consideration at this particular time.

I feel that the Minister of Transportation has done a good job in co-ordinating this and deserves the thanks and credit of all honourable members.

Mr. Jackson: Come on; the last time you slammed the door on Ed Fulton he had to go to hospital to have his foot operated on.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Mr. Kormos: I have a question of the Minister of Financial Institutions. First perhaps I have a concern about the constant reference to an apparent outlawing of discounting for years of good driving experience. Certainly that is not the case; section 33 of the act does not prohibit discounting for years of good driving experience. That is the last reason in the world why seniors are being or will be charged such exorbitant rates.

I have a question for the minister in reference to the most recent report from Mercer to the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board. Whereas hikes of about 15 per cent are suggested for owner-operators of taxicabs, an examination of the case studies shows hikes really in the range of 30 per cent to 40 per cent at the same time that the same report speaks about the serious and gross unreliability of the data. The hikes that are suggested by Mercer are going to force owner-operators of taxicabs off the road.

Mr. Speaker: The question?

Mr. Kormos: Why will the government not use its jurisdiction under section 27 to require the board to consider affordability in this instance, when the board embarks on this latest round of hikes?

Hon. Mr. Elston: First of all, to reply to the honourable gentleman's assertion about other rates, let me advise him and advise the people

that the insurance companies are now looking into setting the rates about which he spoke earlier, for seniors and otherwise. I can tell the honourable gentleman that the overall impact, as established in the rate increases announced by the board for private passenger automobiles, indicates that in fact there is an adjustment required but that overall across the province there will be some areas, because of territorial rating, where seniors will see some declines in their actual cost of insurance. I want to be absolutely sure that the public and the population are fully aware of all the facts that surround the seniors issue.

To deal with the request of the honourable member as it relates to owner-operated taxis, for instance, the hearings will take place in front of the board. As before, he along with other people will be quite able to go forward with their suggestions with respect to what changes they think would be appropriate, and members of the public will again be welcome to attend those hearings so that they can put forward their case with respect to the way they see these rates and premiums being structured.

The board is sitting to understand the rates that will be set. The report from Mercer is the first part of that hearing. As the member knows and as he has underlined, they have found that the data which are the backdrop for their recommendation are inadequate to the extent that they are unwilling to—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. Pouliot: Stop weaseling. Four times the rate of inflation is what you're looking at.

Hon. Mr. Elston: That's not true, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am certain the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Pouliot) would want to let the member—

Mr. Pouliot: This guy is robbing you blind, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Perhaps the member for Lake Nipigon would control himself.

Mr. Kormos: It is precisely because the board, in its last ruling, rejected affordability and chose 12.5 per cent return on equity for insurers as the paramount, overriding consideration in determining rates that I asked the minister to use section 27 to direct that affordability be considered. Mercer, the very same company that provides the expertise to the board, suggests in its most recent newsletter that this is a major opportunity for insurers, among others, because insurers will have the opportunity to earn 12.5 per cent return on equity.

What about cab drivers? What about taxi owner-operators? Will the government ensure that they will have the same opportunity to earn 12.5 per cent of return on equity as is being assured the insurers?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question has been asked.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The honourable gentleman rightly indicates that there was one component which the board used to determine the rate for private passenger automobiles, and that was of course a return on the capital investment, a return on equity of 12.5 per cent. It was not a guarantee of return of that extent. It was not in fact, as he indicated, the major criterion. That is not correct. You know, Mr. Speaker, as that member probably does not, that other major criteria included the end of discrimination on the basis of age, sex, marital status, family status and handicap. It looked at setting up realistic territorial assessments, so that people were being assigned premiums that were associated with risk. He is wrong when he says that 12.5 per cent was the paramount issue. He is absolutely wrong on that score.

When we take a look at what the board finds with respect to its hearings, I am sure that it will take a look at the cost associated with the product and will deal with the market forces that are influencing the costs of insurance for private owner-operators of taxicabs. That hearing is to come, and I will be watching it very carefully indeed, as I watched the hearings that were associated with the private passenger automobile. There is a series of factors which the board will take into account and it will be sitting on those sorts of factors as the hearing progresses.

1420

OUTBREAK OF MENINGITIS

Mr. Jackson: My question is to the government House leader, who I understand is handling health care questions for the government this week. Two weeks ago in this House, on February 6, my colleague the member for Parry Sound (Mr. Eves) raised a question regarding the outbreak of meningitis in Peterborough. At the time the minister responded to his question and indicated that in his opinion the outbreak had been handled appropriately. There have now been 13 cases of meningitis and one death in Peterborough, and there have been 53 cases and six deaths, in total, across this province. That is twice as many as last year. Is it the minister's position and that of the government that the situation is being handled adequately?

Hon. Mr. Conway: The honourable member is correct that some days ago his colleague the member for Parry Sound raised with me concerns about an outbreak of meningitis in the Peterborough area. At that time, I indicated what I will now repeat, that it is the view of the Ontario Ministry of Health that the action taken at that time was prudent and appropriate.

Mr. Jackson: The fact was that our Health critic called the Ministry of Health and asked, and perhaps assumed, that the Ministry of Health would be making an announcement. That was over two weeks ago. We still have not received any clear announcement from the government.

This is a serious issue. Some people are referring to it in epidemic terms. I would like to suggest to the minister that medical textbooks are saying that any relative of a person who has been in close contact with an individual who is infected by schoolmates or child care contacts should receive the antibody to prevent infection as soon as a single case of meningitis is confirmed. That same textbook that has been reported in the Toronto media says that the disease occurs in epidemics among closed groups, such as are found in our schools.

My question is, in light of the seriousness of this disease and the increase in occurrences this year, will the government please announce today or tomorrow what specifically its strategy is in terms of dealing with this epidemic outbreak, who will apply, when—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Two quick points: First, after the discussion that I had in the House with the member for Parry Sound, I did take the matter up with my colleague the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan), who assured me that she had been in contact with the appropriate authorities and had been doublechecking the matter with experts in the area of disease control. Upon her investigation, the minister indicated that the action had in fact been appropriate and had been taken after consultation with experts in the area of disease control.

Furthermore, I will say to my friend the member for Burlington South, it is my understanding that the medical officer of health is expected to make an announcement today.

EMPLOYMENT ADJUSTMENT

Mr. Owen: I have a question for the Treasurer. The federal government requested Jean de Grandpré to find and recommend the best ways to help workers hurt by the free trade deal. Apparently, Mr. de Grandpré has indicated that it

would not always be possible to determine if jobs were lost because of the trade deal and that possibly the best way to help the workers would be to give corporations a new tax break.

Has the provincial government received any communications with regard to the direction the federal government might take to assist workers in industries detrimentally affected by the trade deal?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I thank the honourable member for notice of the question. The honourable members would be aware that early in the free trade debate the Prime Minister of Canada announced there would be massive programs to assist in the adjustment. This was followed by a comment made by the Minister of Finance saying that the programs that were presently in place would be sufficient. So there really has not been any more constructive information than that.

The government of Ontario has forwarded a presentation to the de Grandpré advisory council indicating our views as to what the dislocations may very well be here, now and in the future, and what the government might do to pay for those dislocations. We naturally feel that this is primarily a federal responsibility and are very anxious to co-operate with them in seeing that the federal money is administered in the province to assist in the depredations of the free trade agreement, at the same time recognizing that there will be some advantages.

Mr. Owen: Industry seems to have been telling all governments of this country that efforts should be made to substantially reduce deficits. Surely a new tax break for business does not contribute to a reduction in the deficit facing the federal government. Since such a new tax break for business would add to the federal deficit rather than counter it, has the federal government given any indication as to what it might do by way of tough action to reduce its annual shortfall of \$28 billion?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: No, we have not heard from the Minister of Finance about what he intends to do about his deficit problems. On the other hand, we have of course kept the rate of growth of our expenditures well within the expansion of the provincial economy and therefore we have not added additional burdens to the province by way of the strengthening of our programs.

I think the member should also be aware that during our tenure, the actual deficit has been reduced by about 38 per cent. It is running now, according to the third-quarter report, at about \$1.5 billion. That is still a substantial amount of

money, but only about half of our capital commitment. In other words, we are funding half of our capital expenditures this year from the cash flow from our ordinary tax revenues.

Finally, I think it would be worth saying that our per capita budgetary deficit is \$171. It is the second lowest in Canada, the lowest being in British Columbia. I am not sure what conclusion the honourable members may want to take from that. That \$171 per capita should be contrasted with the deficit per capita of the federal government in 1988-89, which is \$1,117.

CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Mr. Farnan: My question is to the Minister of Correctional Services. Correctional centres have been closing units: 100 beds in Guelph, 50 beds in Maplehurst, 20 to 30 beds in Millbrook. This backup is causing an increasing population in the detention centres. At the same time, inmates from Toronto detention centres are being moved as far away as Sudbury, Quinte and Niagara Falls.

Would the minister agree that all sentenced inmates should go to a correctional centre and not to another detention centre, that it is cheaper to keep an inmate at a detention centre—this perhaps is the reason for the policy—and that the result of the ministry's policy is to create additional overcrowding and increased stress on our correctional officers?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I would like to thank my honourable critic for the question.

I would like to say to the member that historically the admissions and discharges are very low at the beginning of the fiscal year and they tend to build up at the end of the fiscal year. That starts to taper off near the end of winter.

We have a system of 53 institutions; some are detention centres and some are correctional facilities. We have to manage that system. It is not a perfect world. We manage the best we can within that system, and sometimes we have to juggle back and forth between the two different types of centres.

Mr. Farnan: As the minister juggles, he is losing very rapidly the confidence of the correctional officers of Ontario. It is one thing not to pamper prisoners; it is quite another thing to subject them to inhumane conditions. The minister's policy is resulting in double-bunking and triple-bunking. It is resulting in a population that is far in excess of what our centres were designed to hold.

It is a genuine concern of correctional officers that their work is becoming more and more

dangerous. They are quoted as saying that they are unable to convince their bosses that this is the case. What is the minister going to do to address the concerns of the correctional officers who have resorted to protesting outside of the detention centres because they cannot dialogue with him? Is he going to dialogue with the correctional officers? Is he going to introduce—

Mr. Speaker: Order. That is the third question.

1430

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I think the point of the member's question is that there is dialogue going on right now between the correctional officers and the public service because it is negotiation time. That is why I welcome all these questions at this time.

I would like to say to the member that we are in our third year of a 15-year corporate plan that includes new capital expenditures for new cells and refurbishing old cells. We are on course on building facilities that we need. We are in a tremendous growth period in this particular Golden Horseshoe area of the province and we have to balance the system and keep up with that growth, but I think we are managing the system very well.

ASSISTANCE FOR THE DISABLED

Mr. Jackson: My question is for the Minister without Portfolio responsible for disabled persons. On February 14, exactly one week ago, I raised the case of 10-year-old Wally Elgersma, who is suffering from spina bifida and leads a life from his wheelchair. I also raised in the House the fact that while Wally was enrolled in a public school, he was receiving the Victorian Order of Nurses' services through the Ministry of Health.

At the time I quoted from a document known as the Ontario Government Programs and Services for Disabled Persons. I quoted the health support services in the school setting. It has a wonderful picture of the minister, who when I asked him the question said, "I am sorry, but I am not aware of the program, I will refer it to another minister," when it was inappropriate that he refer it to that minister since I had already told him it was a Ministry of Health program.

Mr. Speaker: Does the member have a question?

Mr. Jackson: I do. My question is simply this: Now, after a week and the minister's failure to report to Wally or to me or to any member in this House regarding this case, can the minister explain why his government has cut off Wally's

VON support services because he has changed his enrolment to a Christian school?

Hon. Mr. Mancini: First of all, I guess I should thank the member opposite for his colourful recounting of what happened a week ago. I am not sure how that advances his particular case as compared with the member from Nipissing (Mr. Harris) and the member from Leeds-Grenville (Mr. Runciman) and others, but I will try to answer the member directly.

I thought the member last week wanted a direct answer and I thought maybe another minister could help him, but I want to tell the member opposite that following the matter—which I believe to be a very serious matter—being raised, I did consult with a number of my colleagues. The matter does come under the Education Act. The Minister of Education (Mr. Ward) and I have discussed this matter. We are going to discuss it again, I hope, in the very near future to see how we can resolve the problem.

As the principal advocate in the government for persons with disabilities, I have to state that people with disabilities should receive these services when they are needed. I am going to be working with my colleagues to see if in fact that is possible and if we could make it happen. I thank the member for bringing the matter to my attention.

Mr. Jackson: The reason I raised it again one week later is that we received no indication from the minister of his interest or concern with respect to this case. I wanted to make the point to the minister, had he wanted to call and pursue the matter, that this is not, in our opinion, an educational program aimed at schools. In fact, this is a health program that is put in place for school-aged handicapped children.

It should not matter where Wally studies for his education in this province. For that reason, I would ask that the minister make public his position, as the chief advocate for disabled persons in this province, with respect to this policy position and report to this House any progress he can make with respect to overcoming the fact that Wally Elgersma should not be discriminated against, not only because of his handicap but because of his Christian convictions.

Hon. Mr. Mancini: I did send the honourable member a short note after he asked the question to let him know that I was concerned and I believe that he wanted an answer immediately at that time. I think I should bring to the attention of the House that a staff person from the Ministry of Community and Social Services did contact the

honourable member's office and did try to obtain the address of the person involved and that his office did not have that address.

Mr. Jackson: Oh, now come on. Right here in my file along with the note that you just referred to—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Mancini: I should say to the member that, as the principal advocate in government for persons with disabilities, it goes without saying that I wish persons in these particular situations to receive the services as described by the honourable member. I have already told the honourable member that I have met with appropriate ministers, and I will continue to meet with appropriate ministers. It is my hope that the matter can be resolved. I think the member brings forward a very good situation that needs to be redressed, and I say to the House that we are going to try to look after it.

GRAIN STABILIZATION PROGRAM

Mr. Tatham: I have a short question to the Minister of Agriculture and Food. What actions are the Ontario and federal governments taking in establishing stabilization for on-farm feed grains?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: This was a central topic of the agricultural ministers' conference held in Toronto this past summer and at that conference there was unanimous support by all ministers that farm-fed grains be included in a national stabilization program. However, it is unclear at this time what kind of a grain program is in the offing. I understand the federal government has proposed about five different stabilization options at a meeting in Winnipeg on January 26 and 27. My ministry was represented at that meeting. Until these options have been analysed and put into effect, farm-fed grains will not be paid.

When we do arrive at some solution to the problem, I expect that farm-fed grains will be included in whatever grain stabilization program is accepted by the producers. I have told our producers to keep up the pressure and continue to ask that farm-fed grains be included.

Mr. Tatham: What can the minister report on the status of bringing corn and soya beans into a national tripartite program?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: The honourable member is aware that the Ontario Corn Producers' Association has developed a corn tripartite stabilization program. It presented it to the federal government over one year ago. The soya bean growers have been looking at a tripartite program, but to

this point in time I do not think they have agreed to go forth with tripartite stabilization.

In my response to the initial question, I did indicate that the federal government is looking at a number of options for grain stabilization, including corn and soya beans, and it appears that the federal government will not act on the corn producers tripartite stabilization proposal until such time as they come to some agreement as to what kind of a stabilization program they are going to have for grains.

EDUCATION FUNDING

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I have a question to the Minister of Education. I am sure the minister is aware that the Windsor Roman Catholic Separate School Board is going to be cutting back in education in Windsor because of his government's refusal to fund education properly across the province. It is going to be a \$4 million cutback, which is going to result in a cutback in the number of teachers, in French-immersion programs in five schools, in outdoor education and in special education, just to mention a few.

I would like to ask the minister, what is he prepared to do to guarantee the quality of education for Catholic students in the city of Windsor and to make sure that these cutbacks in essential education do not occur?

Hon. Mr. Ward: The member for Windsor-Riverside, I am sure, should know by now that over the course of the past two years, the amount of provincial funding for publicly funded boards of education, both in the public system and in the separate system, have benefited from very substantial increases in the amount of support dollars. This year alone, the amount of funds provided to all boards of education increased somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$250 million, an average increase of about 6.1 per cent. Last year again the increases in funds that flowed to boards of education was in the neighbourhood of seven per cent, all of this at a time of roughly four to 4.5 per cent inflation. I say to the honourable member, at the outset, that the support that we provide to all boards of education has, in fact, substantially increased.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I do not agree with the minister, because what the minister and his government promised to do in the last election and in the election before that was to move toward 60 per cent funding. Instead the grant ceilings do not reflect at all the cost of education in our communities. That is why there are going to be cutbacks to Catholic students in the city of Windsor.

What I am going to ask the minister is, when is the provincial government going to fulfil its commitment of moving towards funding 60 per cent of the cost of education in this province, and does the minister not realize that when he does that and if he fulfilled that promise, Catholic students in the city of Windsor would not be facing cutbacks in the quality of education?

1440

Hon. Mr. Ward: I suggest that the member look at many of the studies that have been undertaken over the course of the past five to 10 years on the funding of elementary and secondary education in this province. The member knows full well that there is, in fact, a two-tier system of governance for education. The province has an overall responsibility, which it shares with locally elected boards of education.

It is true that boards do have the discretionary authority to undertake expenditures above and beyond the grant ceilings should they wish to provide optional programs or programs that are not mandated. I think the member will recognize that the province indeed does have an obligation to ensure that approved, mandated programs as set forth by the province are adequately funded.

If the member will look at the increases in the general legislative grants to assist boards in the delivery of those programs, he will note the \$250-million increase. The member will know that local boards, not the province under the Education Act, have a responsibility for capital. We have increased that funding by 400 per cent.

He will know that for the purposes of pensions, the province—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

TRAINING FOR FIREFIGHTERS

Mr. Villeneuve: To the Solicitor General: On January 12, or more than five weeks ago, I asked the minister about funding for the training of volunteer fire departments, particularly the one in Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry. The course is now half over, and we have heard nothing from her or her ministry.

I quote her answer of January 12, when she said as follows: "We are addressing it and looking for new and creative solutions for training. However, I know that the member has spoken to the Minister of Skills Development and they have run into some difficulties over the use of that ministry for this kind of training. This is being looked at and will continue to be looked at." Is the minister finished looking? Could she provide us with an answer, please?

Hon. Mrs. Smith: The member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry will be very glad to know that indeed we are still working on this program and intend to continue to address it in co-operation with the people throughout this province.

It is obvious that programs of these sorts are particularly looked at during estimates time, and we will continue to look for more creative ways of assisting in a program that is fundamentally the responsibility of municipalities.

Mr. Villeneuve: I cannot believe, again, a sloughing off to the municipalities. I quote from a letter signed by the chief, and it reads as follows: "The majority of firefighters in SD and G do not have basic fire training skills," i.e., no formal training. The majority of firefighters in SD and G lack CPR training, basic first aid, training in auto extrication, etc.

The majority of firefighters in SD and G lack the time, and in addition cannot afford the monetary loss to attend the Ontario Fire College in Gravenhurst. Why do the Solicitor General and the Minister of Skills Development (Mr. Curling) continue to discriminate against rural Ontario?

Hon. Mrs. Smith: It is for the reasons just mentioned that we are looking for more creative solutions. We recognize that for many volunteers it is difficult to travel to Gravenhurst for training. We look to find a more flexible way, as we have done in many cases.

We have sent people out to train and provide courses within the location where the people live. We intend to continue doing this. There are some courses available through community colleges. We intend to look at those, with co-operation; but the particular problems addressed in one region cannot be addressed in isolation to the problems throughout the whole province. It is a major examination that we are involved in so that solutions that we come up with can be helpful not only to the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry but indeed to people throughout the province.

SPECIAL SERVICES AT HOME PROGRAM

Mr. Offer: I have a question for the Minister of Community and Social Services. I have recently been questioned as to whether his ministry is undergoing a change of policy on the issue of contract services for home support.

The couple who have contacted me have a child who is both autistic and epileptic. In order for them to obtain their parent relief, they have, in the past, personally contracted with his

ministry for home support and have, in this case, been aided by the Reena Foundation.

The process for such home support by this application is one to which they are accustomed and one to which they agree. However, they have recently been informed there may be a change in policy, so that parents requiring such support would make application—again in this instance to Reena—and Reena would then make application to the ministry. Has there been such a change or is such change being contemplated?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: The program being referred to is the special services at home program for families with disabled children that is directly delivered in the communities by my ministry. It is one of the few, if not the only program left, directly delivered by my ministry at the community level.

As such, we are exploring whether it could be delivered more effectively and more efficiently by a nonprofit community agency than by my ministry. That decision has not been made. It is being explored and I cannot tell the honourable member what the final decision will be. It is under review at the present time.

Mr. Offer: With respect to this review of policy there has also been concern voiced that if indeed such change did take place, this would necessarily result in a reduction of service. I am wondering if the minister could comment.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: I can certainly say that the transfer of responsibility from my ministry to a nonprofit agency would not result per se in a reduction of service. I can tell the honourable member that the number of families being served by this program has increased from approximately 3,000 in 1984 to almost 8,000 in 1988-89.

Therefore, the service is increasing at a very significant rate. We review with families every six months whether their needs remain the same or whether those needs have changed, and service can either go up or down as a result of that. But it would not change just as a result of the transfer of responsibility for the program.

NATIVE PEOPLE AND THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Mr. Pouliot: My question is to the Solicitor General. Last week in Thunder Bay, Ontario's Race Relations and Policing Task Force heard the rather appalling and shocking tale of beatings, racial slurs, abuse, despair and suicide that left members of the panel indeed numb.

A member of the panel, James Harding, who has spent some 33 years with the police force, and he incidentally heads the Ontario Associa-

tion of Chiefs of Police, makes a recommendation to the Solicitor General, saying, "Yes, the responsibility for policing on reserves should be left with the native people," which is a normal reaction; and yet every time I have asked the minister to fund a native constable program we were informed that responsibility rests with Ottawa. We are talking about the wellbeing of a people and the wellbeing of a culture. Will the minister tell the House why there was not a native Canadian on the panel and will she make the commitment, the fulfilment of a promise in treaties, that first Canadians will indeed be the recipients of funding, in terms of the justice system, in terms of enforcement, and yes even in the courts and in the jails?

Hon. Mrs. Smith: I am very happy to report to the member for Lake Nipigon that indeed not only do I have a high priority for this subject of native policing and justice systems, and the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) shares this, but there is another group that is, in fact, meeting particularly on this subject and it will be making recommendations to us on that.

As well, James Harding, to whom the member has alluded, is one of the people on the group that is examining the new Police Act. All of these matters are being taken into very serious consideration. Work is presently under way to do some creative pilot projects in this direction, with which I know that native people themselves are most anxious to co-operate.

1450

PETITIONS

SENIOR CITIZENS' APARTMENTS

Mr. Harris: I do have a petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas in 1973 the Ontario Housing Corp. constructed a senior citizen complex, consisting of a senior citizen apartment building situated at 135 Worthington Street West, in the city of North Bay, and whereas it has come to our attention that senior citizen apartments have been rented to nonseniors; be it resolved that we, the undersigned, support the establishment of a regulation whereby senior citizen apartments be made available to seniors only."

This is similar to a previous petition that I presented to His Honour on January 30, 1989. This one contains close to 1,000 signatures, in addition to those that I have tabled before, and I have signed it.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Miss Martel: I have a petition addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, and it reads as follows:

"We care about injured workers. We protest the Minister of Labour's proposal to change the law that would take away injured workers' rights to permanent disability pensions when they are permanently disabled; that would do almost nothing about the miserable compensation to existing injured workers and their widows, and that would leave the injured workers of the future worse off. Workers who are killed or injured in their work deserve much better treatment than this."

I agree with them and I have signed my name.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Laughren: "To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We urge Premier Peterson not to proceed according to the legislation he has announced, but instead strengthen protection for all workers who do not want to work on Sundays; to not pass the buck to local governments on this issue, and to maintain a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

It is not too late.

SMALL CLAIMS COURT

Mr. Reycraft: I have a petition signed by about 50 people from the Ottawa-Carleton area. It is addressed to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, and it calls for an increase from the present \$1,000 in the amount of the maximum claim allowable to the provincial court, civil division to \$3,000.

I have affixed my signature.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MUNICIPAL STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Eakins moved second reading of Bill 192, An Act to amend the Municipal Act and certain other Acts related to Municipalities.

Hon. Mr. Eakins: This legislation will make a number of minor amendments to the Municipal Act. The Municipal Act is the most important legislation that governs municipal operations; thus, in order to reflect contemporary practices, the Municipal Act requires periodic amendment.

I will not take the time of the House to describe all the proposed amendments. Many are of a housekeeping nature and are self-explanatory.

There are four provisions, however, which are particularly significant that I would like to draw to the attention of the members. The proposed legislation will clarify that municipalities can make loans, as well as give grants to nonprofit corporations, encouraging small business. For example, it will permit the city of Toronto to loan funds to Toronto Artscape Inc., which plans to operate an incubator serving professional artists.

The commission of inquiry provision will be expanded to allow all electors, not just property owners, to request the establishment of a commission of inquiry into the affairs of their municipality.

From time to time, the various ministries introduce new programs and wish to encourage municipal participation. At present, a specific legislative amendment is needed for each new program initiative to permit a municipality to enter into an agreement with the specific ministry. A new section is proposed which provides general authority for municipalities, including upper-tier municipalities, to participate in new programs established by the province.

Finally, the fairness of the property tax system has been the subject of considerable discussion for many years. In 1987, the Municipal Act was amended to permit a county-wide reassessment that updates all properties throughout the county to a uniform proportion of market value. A further refinement is now proposed which, as an alternative, would permit the reassessment of all properties throughout the county to full market value. In other words, the assessment of each individual property for purposes of taxation would correspond precisely to the most recent value of the property.

Mr. Breagh: We have a number of bills in Orders and Notices this afternoon which are essentially of the same nature. They are bills that have been requested at various times by municipalities. Members will know that the normal process is that when a municipality has identified a particularly vexing legislative problem, it will notify the ministry and in due course, some time that century, there will be a legislative response. That is what we have this afternoon. We have been contacting the various municipalities involved in these bills.

I will make this speech once and forgo it the other four times. We are supportive of both the process which makes these necessary amend-

ments and the concept that municipalities, in some small sense, do have some control over the legislation which governs them and that when they discover a legislative change which should be made, whether that is because a piece of legislation is redundant or there is a problem in legislative terms with the legislation which governs their municipal actions, they can seek some recourse to that by, in a sense, petitioning the minister to make responses such as we see in the five bills before us this afternoon.

We agree with that process and with the way it has happened. In my view, none of these bills is particularly controversial. I have notes to say a few things on some of the others, but essentially they are bills that are brought forward at the request of municipalities. We agree that this is a reasonable way to proceed. We support this particular bill and we have no amendments to put forward.

The Deputy Speaker: Questions and comments on the member's statement? If not, do other members wish to participate?

Mr. McCague: Mr. Speaker, I am sorry that I was out. Were they called in order? Is this Bill 192?

The Deputy Speaker: Yes.

Mr. McCague: I have a couple of comments, basically endorsing the comments made by the critic from the New Democratic Party.

The signing of cheques seems to make sense.

With regard to the municipal loans to small-business incubators, in discussion of this bill in our caucus it was suggested that maybe there should be an upside limit on the amount that municipalities can give in loans, charge in interest on loans and guarantee on loans. Did the minister give that any thought?

Hon. Mr. Eakins: Section 112a of the Municipal Act provides a specific exception, in case some are wondering, about the bonusing prohibition. Such incubators may be established through the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology or, under section 112a of the Municipal Act, by an order of council. Regulations pursuant to the Municipal Act set a cap on municipal funding, currently \$5 per capita.

The Deputy Speaker: I would like to remind the members that we are not in committee right now, so the standard rules of debate should be adhered to and followed. We will make an exception in this one case. You may proceed.

Mr. McCague: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did not want to pose too many questions, in case the answers were not forthcoming.

The other section that I have a question on is the one in connection with longbows and crossbows. I understand the amendment and that the legislation gives the power to the municipality to prohibit and regulate the discharge of weapons for the purpose of public safety by including longbows and crossbows.

Is there anything in the legislation which prohibits the carrying of firearms? We would be prepared to let the bill proceed in a normal fashion if that question were answered.

1500

The Deputy Speaker: Any questions or comments on the member's statement? If not, do other members wish to participate in the debate? If not, would the minister like to wind up?

Hon. Mr. Eakins: The question of providing municipalities with the authority to regulate longbows and crossbows has come at their request because of particular problems within the various municipalities. Many people have been injured. They have asked for that and, of course, we are pleased to give them that authority.

With regard to the question of firearms, municipalities have the power to regulate the discharge of firearms in their municipality. As for the ownership and carrying of firearms, this is under federal government legislation, I understand, which has also given the authority to municipal and provincial police forces to authorize the carrying of firearms. These are pretty straightforward amendments. I appreciate the comments of the honourable members.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for third reading.

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF SUDBURY AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Eakins moved second reading of Bill 197, An Act to amend the Regional Municipality of Sudbury Act.

Hon. Mr. Eakins: In 1986, the first region-wide assessment update was implemented in the region of Sudbury. At the time of passing the enabling legislation, a mandatory provision was included to undertake a follow-up reassessment in 1987 or 1988. The council of the regional municipality and several of the area municipalities have since indicated that they would prefer the next reassessment to occur in 1989, for the purpose of taxation in 1990. This one-year deferral will permit the assessment updates to be determined on the basis of more up-to-date 1988 market values as opposed to the 1984 market values.

Two minor amendments proposed by this bill will permit the one-year reassessment deferral, as requested by the region of Sudbury municipalities.

Mr. Breaugh: We do not agree with market value assessment, but we do agree that this bill should carry.

Mr. McCague: Just one point, Mr. Speaker: I understand that this amendment will also standardize the timing among regions. Is that correct, Minister?

Hon. Mr. Eakins: I believe it is correct that this has happened in other regions also.

The Deputy Speaker: Are there questions and comments on the member's statement? If not, do other members wish to participate in the debate? If not, would the minister like to wind down?

Hon. Mr. Eakins: No comment.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for third reading.

MUNICIPAL PRIVATE ACTS REPEAL ACT

Hon. Mr. Eakins moved second reading of Bill 134, An Act to repeal certain Private Acts related to Municipalities.

Hon. Mr. Eakins: This bill is part of a project which has been undertaken by the ministry in co-operation with legislative counsel. The goal of the project is to eventually repeal all municipal private acts that are obsolete and to work towards a consolidation of the remaining private legislation.

As a first step, the then Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing wrote in October 1982 to all of the approximately 500 municipalities that had obtained private acts since 1867. Each council was asked to review its acts and to advise the ministry whether some or all of these acts could be repealed.

More than 200 municipalities submitted council resolutions requesting the repeal of some or all of their private acts. The ministry and legislative counsel analysed the responses and subsequently prepared a bill proposing to repeal approximately 500 municipal private acts.

This bill was enacted by the Legislature on December 16, 1983. The ministry wrote a second letter in August 1983 to the remaining municipalities to follow up on the earlier request. As a result of the response to the second letter, I am pleased to be sponsoring a bill to repeal a further 300 municipal private acts.

It should be emphasized that this bill includes only those private acts whose repeal has been requested by the affected municipal councils.

I want to assure members that each of these private acts has been carefully reviewed by my ministry and by legislative counsel to ensure that its repeal will not create unforeseen difficulties either for the municipality or for the affected individuals.

I would also like to draw to the attention of the members the compendium to this bill, which provides a chart indicating which private acts are to be repealed and summarizing their subject matter.

This is not a major piece of legislation but it will be useful in helping to update the legislation that affects Ontario's municipalities and their residents.

Mr. Breagh: We agree.

Mr. McCague: I just have a couple of questions to the minister about the general thrust of this legislation. I wonder if the minister has any idea how many private bills are now on the record after we pass this bill. Second, does he envisage going through this exercise every five years or has he really through the two bills that have been introduced cleaned the matter up for the time being?

Hon. Mr. Eakins: I think there have been well over 1,000, and it is my understanding that we are dealing with these as quickly as the municipalities will identify them. We have written to them asking them to review their records and to advise us, in co-operation with legislative counsel, which ones can be dealt with in this manner. I can only say that we are dealing with them as quickly as possible and as quickly as the municipalities will provide the information to us.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for third reading.

1510

ROAD ACCESS AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Eakins moved second reading of Bill 135, An Act to amend the Road Access Act.

Hon. Mr. Eakins: The Road Access Act was enacted in 1978 to resolve an awkward problem involving two types of roads. The first type of common road is a municipally maintained road used for public travel which does not appear in the registry office as being owned by the municipality. The second, an access road, is a private road over someone's property that is used by another owner as the sole means of road access to his or her property. Access roads are usually found in areas of summer cottages and camps.

Problems frequently arise with these roads when new owners purchase a property and find that the people using the road over their property appear to have no legal right to do so. This often results in a barricade being erected by the new owners to prevent the continued use of the road.

The Road Access Act has successfully addressed this situation by prohibiting anyone from placing a barricade over a common or access road unless the person has been granted a judge's order to close the road. This cooling-off period allows the road to remain open while the legal issues are settled in court. In practice, the act has given police officers an effective means of persuading individuals to remove barricades before charges have to be laid.

A recent Ontario Court of Appeal judgement undermined the effectiveness of the act by ruling that the legislation does not make it a continuing offence to maintain a barricade. The decision means that unless the barricade is discovered and legal proceedings are commenced within six months, the provisions of the Road Access Act cannot be used. Chief Justice Howland made it clear in his judgement that if the prohibition in the act had included maintaining a barrier, he would have been satisfied that the intent of the act was to create a continuing offence.

The proposed amendment will make it clear that this is the intent of the act by prohibiting both the placing and the maintaining of a barricade over a common or access road unless a judge's order has been obtained. This legislation will therefore resolve the difficulty that was created by the Court of Appeal judgement.

Mr. Breagh: We will support the bill if only to make the Chief Justice happy. I know of at least one other family in Oshawa that has run into exactly this problem. It will probably make them happy too, so we are pleased to support it.

Mr. McCague: This is a problem that I have run into in my constituency from time to time. I think the minister did provide excellent briefing notes, but I may have been daydreaming a bit here. I do not think the minister read what I consider to be the most relevant comment that was in his excellent briefing notes.

The minister will correct me if I am wrong. I do not think the minister explained to us the problem of people being away from properties like this for a period of six months, should it be from Thanksgiving to May 24. I think it is probably appropriate that it be put on the record.

The notes do say that this creates real difficulty for cottagers because frequently the existence of a barricade may not come to the attention of the

affected owner before the six-month limitation period has expired. "This would be the case where a barrier was constructed shortly after Thanksgiving Day"—which, although it is not in the notes, used to be the custom if you wanted to try to prohibit access—"and the affected cottager did not return to reopen the cottage until the May 24 holiday weekend of the next year."

I think it is important that we acknowledge that this bill does cover that particular case.

Hon. Mr. Eakins: I just want to say that in my statement I did mention that the proposed amendment will make clear the intent of the act by prohibiting both the placing and the maintaining of a barricade over a common or access road unless a judge's order has been obtained. I believe the legislation does cover what the honourable member is asking. As the member for Oshawa (Mr. Braeugh) has mentioned, these problems are quite common in cottage country, as I am very much aware. I think the legislation does satisfy the problem that the member mentioned.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for third reading.

DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY OF MUSKOKA AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Eakins moved second reading of Bill 169, An Act to amend the District Municipality of Muskoka Act.

Hon. Mr. Eakins: This amendment to the District Municipality of Muskoka Act has been unanimously requested by the municipal council of Muskoka and by the six area municipal councils.

Currently, the district council is the only body responsible for passing official plans and area municipalities are precluded from having their own official plans. This amendment will allow local councils to pass their own official plans.

In most regional municipalities, both regional and local councils play an important legislative role as far as the official plan function is concerned. The upper-tier council first prepares and adopts an official plan for its jurisdiction and each local council subsequently prepares and adopts a more detailed plan to guide development at the local level. The Planning Act stipulates that the official plan conform to the regional official plan.

When the district municipality of Muskoka was established in 1971, the original legislation followed the regional model. It gave both district and local councils an official role in the planning function.

Due to the importance attached to the planning function by the district council in the early years, the government was asked to amend the district act, giving sole responsibility for planning to the district council. In 1974 the act was amended to satisfy this request.

Now that a district official plan is in place, there is a strong desire to return to the model that was established in the original legislation. This plan contains specific amendments providing secondary plan coverage to all municipalities, with the exception of the town of Bracebridge. As a result, the district council and all six area municipalities have requested that the act be amended to give regional and local councils a shared planning responsibility.

By sharing the responsibilities, district council will be better able to concentrate on planning issues and policies that are of district-wide significance. At the same time, this approach will enable area councils to pursue issues of local significance with input from the area residents.

In light of this unanimous local support, I am pleased to be sponsoring this amendment to the Muskoka act. Subsequent to the introduction of the bill in June 1988, amendments to the district plan were approved. Several redundant references can now be deleted from this bill, and for this reason I am moving four motions.

Mr. Black: I want, first of all, to commend the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Eakins) for bringing forth this legislation in response to a request from Muskoka district council. I want to confirm for all members that indeed this proposed change does have unanimous support throughout Muskoka. They are amendments that are very badly needed, in the view of the people who work and live in Muskoka, and they look forward with great anticipation to the third and final reading of this legislation when it should happen.

Mr. Braeugh: This particular argument has gone on for some time now, with this bill being the culmination of all of the discussions on how planning should be carried on in the district of Muskoka. We concur that it is logical now to accept the recommendations from the local municipalities and the district to proceed with this bill.

I cannot help but note that after all of this, we still have one more amendment on the part of the government minister. It would have been nice if we had been able to print the bill last June as it should have been printed and not have to bother with amendments, but that is the way of the world.

1520

Mr. McCague: I have the pleasure of sharing parts of the county of Simcoe with the member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay (Mr. Black), and I would not dare oppose him on this. He says that everybody in Muskoka agrees with this. I might just point out to him, though, that one day he will get a complaint. I am sure he will come back and tell me that he was just a little wrong, that there were one or two people who did not agree with it, and he will apologize to me.

Motion agreed to.

The Deputy Speaker: Shall the bill be ordered for third reading?

Hon. Mr. Eakins: I have four amendments.

The Deputy Speaker: I think there was an entente to now proceed with order 18 and then go to committee of the whole House. Is that correct?

Hon. Mr. Conway: That entente would be very much agreeable to me.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Just to be clear, the member for Burlington and I both have to be in estimates of the Ministry of Education. Our preference would be if we could move to the next order and, after the committee of the whole House of that next order, then revert to this committee of the whole. That would be our preference so that we can come back and hear the opening statement of the minister.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I think we can certainly accommodate that. So that we understand what the member for Scarborough West has suggested, we would call the next order, which would be the adjourned debate for the motion on second reading of Bill 128, which I believe will then require committee of the whole. We will do the committee of the whole there, and then take committee of the whole on Bill 169. Is that agreeable? If that is agreeable, I call the 18th order.

PLANNING AMENDMENT ACT (continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 128, An Act to amend the Planning Act.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Markham (Mr. Cousens) had finished the debate last time. That being the case, do other members wish to participate in the debate?

Mr. Breaugh: If other members want to participate in second reading, I do not want to preclude that, but it is my understanding that we have concluded second reading, and if it would

facilitate matters for other members who have committee work to do, perhaps we could simply go into committee now. I believe two amendments, at least, had been brought forward, and there may be some others. We could proceed through in committee of the whole House, but we have not voted on second reading yet.

The Deputy Speaker: We have not voted on second reading yet. Would it be agreeable to have the minister wind up and then take the vote on second reading? The member for Scarborough West.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I want to make a few brief remarks before we move to that, if it is all right. It will be only four or five minutes. Procedurally, there may be some question about one or two amendments I would like to initiate and I would like to get my remarks in now.

I have just sent to the critic and the minister some amendments to the Planning Act which I would like to put forward at this time. They should not be a surprise to the members, in that there has been a private member's bill before this House now for several years, since the passage of the resolution on the nuclear-weapons-free zone overwhelmingly by the Legislature in 1986.

I want to take this opportunity, at the first time the Planning Act is reopened for discussion, to introduce the concept that the Planning Act was, in fact, a totally provincially operated vehicle, one which could not be said to be in the jurisdiction of the federal government or any other jurisdiction which might question whether we had the right to move on the whole question of Ontario as a nuclear-weapons-free zone, finding ways to implement the resolutions that have been passed in this House.

What my motions do is, first, define what is nuclear weapons material, and then they move to add to the responsibilities of the minister involved. Under section 2 of the act would be the following responsibility, and that is "the protection of the public from the possible threat to its health, social fabric and environment inherent in the production of nuclear weapons material."

This power, given to the minister to add to some of the other health and safety kinds of powers that he has listed just above that, in that section which is being reopened during this review of the Planning Act, is something which I think was a very important thing for us to pass as a House. It would allow the government to do such things—dare I say it, and I know this might make the government tremble—as stopping the development of tritium sales by stopping the development of any kind of manufacturing plant

which would be involved in this because the material processed there might be detrimental to the health of our own citizens as well as of the citizens of the rest of the world.

This kind of power would, I hope, allow us the right as a government to say to municipalities, before they say to Litton Industries that it is all right for it to move into the area of developing new guidance instruments, for instance for new nuclear weaponry, that they should understand that the minister under this amendment would have the right to protect the people of the province from such an action.

I think it is a very important consideration. I do not expect it to be adopted by the Liberal government, which has moved as quickly as possible away from any kind of implementation of the resolution which so many of its members supported just these few years ago, but I want to get the Liberals on record, on a vote in committee of the whole House, as to whether or not they still stand by their adherence to the nuclear-weapons-free zone or whether they in fact are no different from past governments.

Another section I would have added to the Planning Act would state under section 16 of the act, "Every official plan shall be deemed to include a provision that no new facilities shall be established for and no facilities shall be converted to the production of nuclear weapons material." I think this is also a vital thing to bring into play. It may be that the chair will rule this out of order and I would be willing to accept that kind of a judgement if he or she feels that this section is not open at this time, but it falls from the right that I have just been speaking to.

Another section would be brought forward which would say, "Unless otherwise approved by the minister, and in the case of land in a local municipality also authorized by a bylaw in force under section 34, no person shall establish or convert a facility for or to the production of nuclear weapons material on any parcel of land in Ontario."

This would finally stop the proliferation of nuclear-weapons-related industries in the province by making it deemed to be the case that all official plans in the province would now require that this sort of conversion or construction not take place.

I put this forward, as I say, with no great hope of it passing, as is often the case for those of us who take these battles on. But I do want to put it forward to the government that it missed an opportunity to make these changes to the Planning Act, to show good faith in terms of the

passage of that private member's resolution in 1986. I now want to see how they are going to vote on this matter as I bring it forward now to amend the Planning Act.

Mr. Jackson: It was my understanding that the debate on second reading had not concluded. Given that my colleague the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston) has commented on one of his amendments, I, too, would just like to briefly state that it is my intention today, as it was last year when Bill 128, the Planning Amendment Act, was before this House, to present an amendment which would have the effect of striking down the municipal bylaw practice of limiting the number of unrelated persons who live in single-family dwellings.

I would like to present my arguments when we proceed to clause-by-clause on this matter, but I wish to serve notice to the minister, to all parties in this House and to the many groups and individuals in this province who have helped me come to the realization that while the Planning Act is open and before us, it would be appropriate to amend and eliminate these discriminatory zoning practices.

For that reason, I also would like to thank my colleague the member for Markham (Mr. Couzens), who spoke eloquently and at length on this bill when he adjourned the debate many months ago.

1530

Hon. Mr. Eakins: In speaking on the resumption of the debate on this bill, I would like to remind members that the bill generally deals with a range of matters designed to improve the effectiveness of the Planning Act. It represents the first amendments to the new Planning Act, 1983.

The bill in its present form is supported by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and includes some significant items. First, the matters of provincial interest have been expanded to include the provision of a range of housing types. We have also clarified that the Minister of Municipal Affairs may declare a matter to be of provincial interest whether or not a formal policy statement has been issued under section 3.

The other amendment I draw to the attention of members is the reduction of the overall minimum time for zoning bylaws to be effective from 65 to 41 days. The opposition has proposed two amendments related to affordable housing and requires specific legislative reference to be made to this term. The government cannot support these proposed amendments because we have

concluded it is virtually impossible to define affordable housing in meaningful legislative terms, even though it can be done through guidelines.

As the Legislature is aware, the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek) and myself have jointly issued for public comment a draft policy statement under the Planning Act dealing with affordable housing. The government view is that it is more appropriate to allow municipalities some flexibility in achieving our housing objectives by means of a policy statement rather than through legislation.

I add that even though the policy statement is still in draft form, it is already being successfully used by government and municipal staff in order to secure appropriate policies in municipal official plans.

Finally, it is my understanding that the member for Burlington South (Mr. Jackson) intends to move an amendment that would prohibit municipalities from distinguishing between related and unrelated persons in zoning bylaws. My ministry has recently consulted with many municipalities across the province on this issue. We have sought legal opinions on whether the types of bylaws that are often passed are indeed discriminatory. Many municipalities clearly view bylaws using a family definition as reasonable. However, the government has concluded that these bylaws based on a relationship between individuals rather than use are contrary to public interest and are possibly illegal.

They could very well have the greatest effect on the human rights of students and those individuals in society who are most disadvantaged: single mothers, recipients of public assistance and disabled persons. Indeed, I understand that the Ontario Human Rights Commission is in the process of investigating several complaints involving such bylaws. The government therefore supports the proposed amendment to this bill.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for committee of the whole House.

The Deputy Speaker: Therefore, we are doing committee of the whole right now for both bills simultaneously. Correct?

House in committee of the whole.

PLANNING AMENDMENT ACT

Consideration of Bill 128, An Act to amend the Planning Act, 1983.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Morin): Are there any comments, questions or amendments to this bill, and if so to which section?

Mr. Breagh: Are you doing Bill 128 first, Mr. Chairman?

The Acting Chairman: Bill 128, correct.

Mr. Breagh: I have given notice of two amendments, one to section 2 and one to section 6.

I have a question that perhaps can be easily answered in committee. When I was a young boy and we started to deal with this bill, the government tabled an amendment to add section 14a, which is actually quite similar to an amendment that was also tabled at that time by the member for Burlington South (Mr. Jackson).

I seek some clarification. The government has tabled an amendment that would in effect eliminate what are known as exclusionary bylaws, as has the member for Burlington South. I would like some indication from the minister as to what he is doing this afternoon. Is he in favour of this amendment or not, and which of the amendments does he intend to either support or put forward? Is it the government's intention to proceed with an amendment of its own or has the minister decided to support the amendment that is being put forward—notice has been given of an amendment—by the member for Burlington South? If we could clarify that, then I think we could proceed fairly quickly through the committee stage of the bill.

Hon. Mr. Eakins: In fact, we did not table an amendment to this bill.

Mr. Breagh: Excuse me, but I got from the Clerk's office an amendment for section 14a that is labelled a government amendment. I had assumed that when it was labelled a government amendment it was put forward by the government. It does parallel very closely the amendment that had already been tabled by the member for Burlington South.

All I need to know is, does the minister have any clue which direction he is flying in this afternoon? If he can tell us whether he is up or down, we can then proceed with either his amendment or the amendment that would accomplish the same thing which has been put forward by the member for Burlington South. If he will tell us whether he is up or down, we can proceed.

Mr. Reyecraft: I might ask for the consent of the opposition parties to have the minister move down to the front row and bring his assistants in to work at the table before him.

Agreed to.

The Deputy Chairman: The minister may move to the front and the staff may enter the chamber.

May I first solicit from the opposition party whether there are any amendments to be proposed.

Mr. Breagh: I have two and I think the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston) has one.

The Deputy Chairman: May I ask to which sections.

Mr. Breagh: As I just said, I have an amendment to section 2 which was tabled, I think, last May; and I also have an amendment to put forward to section 6, which again was tabled when we were on second reading debate last May.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I have an amendment to section 2 that if carried would also require an amendment to definition section 1 and two subsequent amendments that would follow as well on section 16 and section 19a.

The Deputy Chairman: And the third party, the member for Burlington South?

Mr. Jackson: You did not have to quite put it that way, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Breagh: Also singing this afternoon is—

Mr. Jackson: My backup team.

I too would like to present an amended amendment, which I tabled last May and which is an amendment to section 14a. I have given a copy to the Clerk, to the minister and to the members of the second party.

The Deputy Chairman: Thank you. Now, are there any government amendments?

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Chairman, before we proceed, the minister now has two assistants in front of him. Maybe he could confirm for us whether or not the government intends to move the amendment on section 14a. It is labelled as a government amendment and it was tabled with us, I believe, last May. Is it the minister's intention to proceed with that amendment or will we go with the amendment of a similar nature that was put forward by the member for Burlington South?

1540

Hon. Mr. Eakins: If an amendment was received, it was not through the government. We will support the amendment of the honourable member, as I mentioned in my remarks.

Mr. Breagh: I am confused. I have been given from the Clerk's office, from the table officers in fact, an amendment on section 14a that is labelled "Government Amendment." That is where I got it. Normally, I get it through the Toronto Star, but this time I got it right from the

horse's mouth, so to speak. All I need to hear the minister say is that they do not intend to proceed with that amendment, which they tabled. If that is what it is going to do, fine.

The Deputy Chairman: That seems to be what the minister has indicated. Can we then proceed to the first amendment, to section 2.

Section 2:

Mr. R. F. Johnston: This would require, if it passed, reverting to amending section 1 in its definitions, as I have indicated. Since I am not presuming this will pass, I am not worried about it.

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. R. F. Johnston moves that section 2 of the said act be amended by striking out "and" at the end of clause 2(j) and by adding thereto the following clause:

"(k) the protection of the public from the possible threat to its health, social fabric and environment inherent in the production of nuclear weapons material."

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I hope the wording is correct, in that Bill 128 proposes a clause (j), and that is why I have worded this to follow clause (j), although the old act just ended at clause (h).

This is the section of powers provided to the minister. As I have said before, there are certain powers within the act—I could read some of the others to members if they would like—in terms of "the protection of the natural environment"; "the protection of features of significant natural, architectural, historical or archaeological interest"; "the provision of major communication, servicing and transportation facilities," and a range of other responsibilities the minister must take into account when he deals with planning matters under the Planning Act.

What I am suggesting flows very naturally from this House's overwhelming support of the resolution to make Ontario a nuclear-weapons-free zone, in that the minister responsible for the Planning Act should have added to his responsibilities "the protection of the public from the possible threat to its health, social fabric and environment inherent in the production of nuclear weapons material." Nuclear weapons material should be seen to be part of his responsibilities.

If members of the government feel today as they did as private members in the past—I remember the voting support of the member, now minister, for that resolution. If he feels now as he did then, this is a meaningful way for him, as a minister, to finally say, "Yes, there is a provincial role in the whole question of nuclear

weapons production." We, as a province, can take that initiative and he, as a minister, can take this position, that he should have to take this into account while looking at these matters that flow from his powers under the act.

If he so agrees, then it would be incumbent upon us, I presume, to change the definition section, to add a section that would define what is nuclear weapons material. I have that amendment ready to be presented if he were to decide he wanted these powers added to that list he has presently.

If he does not wish them added, then I can only presume he is speaking for the Liberal Party of Ontario and for the government of this province and no longer believes in a nuclear-weapons-free zone or that the government has any responsibilities thereto, in that the Planning Act is the one provincial jurisdiction that cannot be challenged from any quarter, it seems to me, that we have sole responsibility for. The minister already has certain responsibilities around health and safety—to take them into account—as listed earlier in section 2.

If he truly believes those things must be taken into account, and if we believe we have a positive role to play, as that resolution said, in terms of stopping the development of nuclear weapons material in this province and taking a stand that will be of leadership to other parts of the world and to our own country, then this is an area where we can take some action.

It seems highly ironic to me, since I expect to hear the minister say that this is not possible and that he is unwilling to move on it, that at the very time when finally the world leaders, the United States and Russia, seem to be making steps towards active disarmament, this supposed Liberal reform government is unwilling to take any initiatives of its own to declare this province nuclear-weapons-free and to take specific action, as I am suggesting, to make sure this happens in Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Eakins: I want to point out that I cannot support the amendment. I can appreciate the good intention of the honourable member, but I do not believe this is an appropriate piece of legislation to deal with this particular amendment. As the member has pointed out, the minister's role is referred to in part I of the Planning Act, clause 2(h), in which, "The minister, in carrying out his responsibilities under this act, will have regard to, among other matters, matters of provincial interest, such as, . . . the health and safety of the population." It goes on from there. So I believe this is not an

appropriate place to deal with this amendment that has been presented.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I must respond, with the member for Burlington South who was very instrumental in helping his colleagues and other members of the Legislature come to an understanding of why we should support that resolution back in 1986, that the logic of what the minister is saying is absolutely preposterous.

If the minister is admitting that he has a responsibility for "the health and safety of the population," and if he has in other parts of his mandate things that clearly reinforce other elements already listed—I might suggest that such things as "the protection of the natural environment" are very much tied in with "the supply, efficient use and conservation of energy"—these concepts do flow one from the other.

But if the minister believes, for instance, that he can talk specifically about "the equitable distribution of educational, health and other social facilities" and then list underneath that there are other kinds of facilities that also need to be looked at, then he can also add a particular instrument for himself, which is the power around the specific problem around the production of nuclear weapons.

What I am suggesting is that there is a new concept here; that is, under existing legislation no minister in his position has ever used his or her powers under clause 2(h), "the health and safety of the population," to do anything around the development of manufacturing of nuclear weapons parts in Ontario. Therefore, he has not as yet accepted the concept, I presume, since he accepts the resolution that we should be nuclear-weapons-free, that he has had the power under this act to do anything.

I am now saying to the minister that if he wishes, he can take that power, he can add that power. He has the constitutional power to do so if he wishes to. He is saying he wishes to duck it because he presently has the power, although he has never used it in the history of Ontario. I would suggest that the concept of health and safety is not one which is naturally accepted at this point as applying to the production of nuclear weapons parts.

1550

For instance, if we look at that recent cabinet document that came out, I do not think this government yet understands that the production and export of tritium might actually have some sort of health and safety implications for Ontario. There was nothing in that paper to cabinet that said anything about that.

I therefore think it is incumbent upon the minister, if he believes in the resolution as he is sort of indicating he does, and is saying he has the power here, that he should clarify that by this kind of an amendment to add clause (k), which would make it specific. We can then put some teeth into it.

If the minister does not, then let's not play games about the fact that he already has the power. The minister is basically saying that he does not want the power. He does not want to take on that responsibility in this jurisdiction.

Mr. Jackson: I would like to echo the sentiments of my colleague the member for Scarborough West. He has most eloquently identified the issue and put in perspective the power and responsibility of the minister and what appears to be his reluctance to assume same.

I merely wish to suggest that, having participated in the debate almost three years ago in this House with respect to this general issue, we still anxiously await a comment from the Premier (Mr. Peterson), who indicated at the time that he supported the principles that were alluded to in terms of the resolution to be nuclear-weapons-free.

More important, it underlines the fact that the government perhaps utilizes private members' time in a way that lacks a degree of commitment and to a point lacks even a degree of integrity in so far as resolutions which have the support of the full House seem to evaporate into thin air, whether an election has occurred in the interim or not.

I think it is very important that we put back into perspective that not only is the challenge to the use of tritium confined to how safe it is in a given municipality; technology is changing and science is utilizing tritium in more varied and exciting and different ways.

For the minister not to plan for the future of this province—not just for workers' safety and for the safety of our communities, but also for the fact that these products could be extended in greater peacetime use—and for the minister not to even express in this House his interest in and sensitivity to this issue should cause great concern for people concerned with the general nuclear issue, but also with the broader issue of the health, long-term safety and security of municipal planning in this province.

The Vice-Chairman: All those in favour of Mr. Johnston's amendment will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Mr. Reyecraft: There has been an agreement between the three House leaders that any divisions resulting from the clause-by-clause debate on this bill and the other that is going to be considered in committee of the whole would be stacked until tomorrow afternoon at 5:45 p.m.

Vote stacked.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I wonder if I could just help with my amendments by saying that I will not move my other amendments, which were dependent upon this, presuming that the majority will defeat this. If the government changes its mind, then I can always reintroduce amendments to fit the change of heart.

The Vice-Chairman: Mr. Breaugh moves that clause 2(j) of the act, as set out in section 2 of the bill, be struck out and the following substituted therefor:

"(j) the provision of a range of housing types including the requirement that a minimum of 25 per cent of housing be designated as affordable."

Mr. Breaugh: I must confess that the people of Ontario are really going to be confused after the end of this exercise.

I went to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario last August and I watched two ministers of the crown say precisely this, that they thought it was an appropriate time in our history to establish, through the Planning Act, changes that would in fact define affordable housing, make each of our municipalities turn its mind to the provision of affordable housing and begin the process of sorting out exactly what we mean by affordable housing, providing a reasonable definition of what that is in each municipality.

Absolutely no one I know thinks this is a simple thing to do, but the question is, if we are serious about doing it, we must begin that process and we must begin it in a way that is meaningful. Most of the municipal people I talked to are not thrilled by this notion at all. In fact, most municipalities would rather have complete freedom to do what they want in their own areas. Yet at the same time, most of them would acknowledge that in almost all of our municipalities we have a severe housing problem—some would identify it as a housing crisis—and that there is a need for each of our municipalities, through its planning process locally, to address this problem.

The consensus of opinion I hear from municipal people is that they do not like this kind of imposition of provincial policy on municipal planning processes, but they do understand that if

it applies to all of the municipalities—in other words, if there is a legislative requirement for each municipality in Ontario to address what it means by affordable housing and to provide a local definition through its planning process which will do just that—they may not like it, but at least it is fair because all municipalities have to do it.

That, of course, is the problem I see emerging this afternoon. Although the government gave a great speech on this matter last August, although it has been discussed extensively throughout the fall and although one minister of the crown, the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek), continues to make very fine speeches about how everybody has to accept part of the responsibility for the provision of affordable housing, this afternoon when we ask the government through this amendment—and the Liberals can hardly claim the amendment is a surprise because it has been before them for about 10 months—this afternoon when there is an opportunity for the government of Ontario to put its money where its mouth is, it chooses not to.

It is going to be difficult for the Minister of Housing to go around Ontario after this afternoon and argue that municipalities ought to take affordable housing projects in their jurisdictions when today the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Eakins) who is responsible for that says no. He is prepared to write guidelines, he is prepared to give speeches, he is prepared to put out pamphlets and brochures and probably some kind of advertising campaign later on, but when it comes to where it counts, in the Planning Act, he is not prepared to accept it there.

I know I cannot say this is hypocritical, but it is as close to that as you can get and stay parliamentary. If the minister really sincerely believes that every municipality in Ontario has an obligation to take a substantial proportion of affordable housing, he ought at least to have the decency to say so, and say so in a way that the municipalities understand is binding on each of them.

If the minister does not like the number of 25 per cent, he should pick his own number. If he wants to provide a range, he should pick that. If he does not like the definition of “affordable” as proposed in the two amendments I am putting forward, he should give us his own. He has certainly had ample time to consider the matter. He certainly put on the record in a number of places all across Ontario that this government wants each of our municipalities to join in the provision of affordable housing.

The response after this afternoon really ought to be to this minister, to the Minister of Housing and anybody else who poke their noses up, “Why will we bother when you had an opportunity to make the same rules for everybody?” I think that even those who think this is not a good thing to do would have a hard time arguing that as long as the same rules apply to each municipality in Ontario, we may not like it, but it is fair.

1600

I do not know how the minister will go to Richmond Hill now and argue that its council ought to take a nonprofit housing project. They will say that the minister had an opportunity to make that a legal obligation for municipalities; not to actually do it because it certainly is not that definitive in the Planning Act, but to accept the responsibility. That is really what we are talking about this afternoon.

If the government disregards that opportunity, if the government chooses not to put it in the Planning Act, I remind members that it is not exactly like saying that there is a very specific limit. We are talking about the planning process. We are talking about objectives. We are talking about what should go into local official plans. That is what we are talking about this afternoon. We are not putting an obligation on a given municipality to establish 3,000 housing units that are affordable in its municipality this week, not by a long shot. All we are saying is that one of the objectives in the local official plan ought to be to accommodate affordable housing.

I have heard the speeches that have been given by this government, lecturing all of the elected people at the municipal level that they are not doing their fair share, that some of those people who are elected locally are not doing what they ought to be doing in terms of providing affordable housing. I want to hear them try to lecture those people after this afternoon.

I am acknowledging that this is not a simple matter. I am acknowledging that I perhaps have proposed—the ironic thing, I suppose—the exact words that were used by this minister to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. This is what the minister said he wanted to do, and this afternoon when there is an opportunity for him to do just that, he is not going to do it.

I sure would not want to be in the shoes of the Minister of Municipal Affairs or the Minister of Housing or the Premier the next time one of them goes and delivers a not-in-my-backyard lecture to any municipal council anywhere in Ontario.

If the minister did not have the guts this afternoon to be honest and straightforward and

put in the Planning Act exactly what he said in his discussion paper, small wonder that municipalities look at him and say, "How phoney can you really get?"

If this is what he wanted municipalities in Ontario to do, he should say so. The Planning Act is surely an appropriate place to do it because we are not talking specifics here. We are talking about objectives that would go into local official plans. We are talking about everybody bearing a legal obligation to try to meet those objectives.

Surely that cannot be asking too much. If I made a mistake in this, it probably is simply that I believed two ministers of the crown when they addressed a large public gathering and said it was the stated intention of the government of Ontario that every municipality in its official plan should provide for affordable housing. They even said it should be about 25 per cent.

I guess I will listen to those speeches in a slightly different light the next time they are made as well.

The Deputy Chairman: All those in favour of Mr. Breaugh's motion will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Motion negatived.

Section 2 agreed to.

Mr. Breaugh: Just on a small point, Mr. Chairman: We are in committee and I think I have this latitude. I simply want to put on the record very briefly that we proposed an amendment. There was not even the courtesy of a response from the minister on the amendment. I think that the record should show that.

Sections 3 to 5, inclusive, agreed to.

Section 6:

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. Breaugh moves that section 6 of the bill be amended by adding thereto the following subsection:

"(3) Section 17 of the said act is amended by adding thereto the following subsection:

"(22) Despite any other provisions of this act, every official plan shall include a provision defining the term 'affordable' as it relates to housing."

Mr. Breaugh: It is my understanding that the government is not going to accept this amendment either. I will not be long, but I will be harsh. Surely the government of Ontario is not afraid to ask each municipality in Ontario at least to think about what is affordable in terms of housing for its community.

Surely that cannot be seen by the government of Ontario as too onerous a task. Surely that cannot be seen as something that is wrong. Surely it is the obligation of all of us here and every elected person in this province now, in the middle of a housing crisis, at least to think about the question, "What do we mean by affordable housing and shouldn't we have some in our community?"

If it is the government members' choice this afternoon to say that they cannot even bring themselves to say something about affordable housing, then I think from this day forward, every municipal council in this province, when it is looking at a proposal, can say:

"We turned for leadership to the government of Ontario, and when it was asked to look at an amendment to the Planning Act which would make each municipality take its fair share of affordable housing, the government members couldn't even open their mouths on it. When the government of Ontario was asked to look at what you mean by 'affordable' in your community and put something in your official plan to talk about the price of housing, it did not have the time of day for that."

It makes a mockery of the official plan process, because the official plan, for those of us who have worked on it, talks about everything under the sun. It talks about environment, industrial growth, park land, recreation, library services, fire services and police services. It talks about how many times the toilets can flush. Surely to God, it ought to be able to talk about affordable housing.

Now maybe, just maybe, they will give us the good courtesy of some kind of an answer this afternoon. At the very least, those who run around this province begging municipalities to take on housing projects ought to have the intestinal fortitude at least to state their position this afternoon. They should be ashamed of their performance so far this afternoon.

It is not too much to ask that they explain to us why they are not prepared to accept an amendment which would make each of our municipalities at least think about affordable housing. If they are not prepared to do that, it is surely going to be a hard sell for every nonprofit group and co-op group that goes before its council asking for the council's permission to proceed with its nonprofit development.

The government is turning its back on the homeless in Ontario. It is causing each of those who will have the very difficult fight of trying to provide hostels, group homes and all of those

things that are sometimes very controversial at the local level—at the very least, this amendment ought to have a response from the government of Ontario.

If the one they have already given, that they do not have the time of day for either a designation of the number of units that ought to be included in an official plan or the mere thought that something about affordable housing ought to go into a local official plan, they should at least have the guts to say so.

1610

Hon. Mr. Eakins: I want to point out to the honourable member that I thought I had outlined in my opening statement my reasons for not supporting his amendments. I think they were very clear.

I would want to tell my colleague the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breagh) that the policy statement is a very serious; it is a genuine attempt to get the local official plans changed in a co-operative way, and I think it is more appropriate than demanding legislation.

I apologize if he felt I did not respond, but I think my response to his two amendments was in my opening comments. For that reason, I think it is very clear why we do not support the amendments.

The Deputy Chairman: All those in favour of the motion will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Motion negatived.

Section 6 agreed to.

Sections 7 to 14, inclusive, agreed to.

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. Jackson moves that the bill be amended by adding thereto the following section:

"14a The said act is amended by adding thereto the following section:

"34(a)(1) The authority to pass bylaws under subsections 34(1) and 37(1) does not include the authority to pass bylaws that distinguish between persons who are related and persons who are unrelated in respect of the occupancy of a building or structure.

"(2) A provision in a bylaw that distinguishes between persons who are related and persons who are unrelated in respect to the occupancy of a building or structure ceases to have effect on the day this section comes into force."

Mr. Jackson: I would like to thank all members of the House for giving me an opportunity to present this amendment, which I

hope will make it clear that the power to pass bylaws does not include the power to discriminate on the basis of relationship.

I want to suggest that I am not trying to reduce the municipal authority, as has been suggested by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, but rather to clarify its limits as set out in the Planning Act. The Legislature never intended to allow bylaws that were discriminatory and that seem to have grown in custom and fashion in several councils in Ontario. This amendment will clarify that fact, I hope.

When AMO wrote to the minister on the subject of exclusionary bylaws on April 14, 1988, I had occasion to write the then president of AMO, Doris Brick, to put on record my concerns, as she was commenting to the minister about my amendment in the form of Bill 94, which I presented to the House last year. I would like to quote briefly, if I may, from that letter I wrote to the president of AMO.

"It must be stressed that this bill"—in this instance, this amendment—"if passed, will not remove from local councils the right to place occupancy limits on dwelling units. Rather Bill 94"—again in this instance, the amendment—"merely forces such restrictions to apply to related and unrelated persons equally.

"...municipalities will still be able to use the following means to deal with the concerns documented in your letter: regulation of density, lot coverage restrictions, zoning by dwelling type, limits on parking spaces per dwelling unit, maintenance and occupancy standards, the Fire Code, health and safety standards, noise bylaws. My proposal removes none of these options from a local council." AMO should be aware of that.

"Finally, I cannot agree with you that the provisions of Bill 94"—and, of course, this amendment—"and statements made by the Honourable David Peterson are contrary to the thrust and spirit of the Planning Act, 1983.

"All municipal authority is, in one way or another, delegated to local councils by the provincial government. The Planning Act is one of many statutes which lay the ground rules for the exercise of these local powers, statutes full of provisions that clarify, define and limit municipal authority. Surely Bill 94"—this amendment—"does no violence to the spirit of the act by redefining the nature of the zoning authority being transferred by our province to the municipalities."

Not only was AMO a hurdle to overcome with respect to removing these exclusionary bylaws, so also was the government. For that reason, I

just wanted to recap briefly some of the points at which this amendment and the elimination of these exclusionary bylaws was brought to the attention of the government, to the minister and to the public in general.

In 1985 and again in August 1987, all three political parties responded to a questionnaire by the Ontario Federation of Students and they clearly set out that they objected and were opposed to exclusionary bylaws, at least in principle. In November 1987 I raised this issue with the current minister in the House. His answer to me, if I can paraphrase him, was, "If our government promised it, we're prepared to look at it and bring it in."

On January 7, 1988, I had been waiting for several months for some action from the government. I tabled my Bill 94, which is in essence the amendment I have before the committee of the whole House today, which was An Act to prohibit Discrimination by Municipalities against Unrelated Persons Occupying Residential Property.

1620

On February 29, almost a year ago, while campaigning in London North and attending a hearpit session at the University of Western Ontario, the Premier told students of that university that these bylaws are wrong and that his government would bring in legislation to eliminate them. We waited.

On March 10, there was still no word from the Premier. I delivered over 10,000 postcards from students all across Ontario—post-secondary students at the universities that were affected—to impress upon the government the commitment that students had to eliminating these exclusionary bylaws. On June 2, as has been referred to already by the Housing critic for the New Democratic Party, I tabled an amendment to Bill 128. We all know that bill was pulled from Orders and Notices, or our time in the House elapsed and we were unable to address it.

Here we are one year later, but I do want to publicly thank at least the following members: the member for Sudbury East (Miss Martel); the member for Brampton South (Mr. Callahan); the member for Downsview (Mr. Leone); the member for Eglinton (Ms. Poole); the member for Etobicoke-Humber (Mr. Henderson); the member for Scarborough West, and the member for York South (Mr. B. Rae), all of whom, in a nonpartisan way, sent expressions of support for this amendment and have stated so publicly, both to students and other groups adversely affected by exclusionary bylaws.

I would like to comment for the record that of the 10 cities in Ontario where these exclusionary bylaws are currently in place, it is not surprising that all but three of those municipalities are where major universities are located. It is clear—some councils will admit it and others will not—that it is an exclusionary bylaw aimed at university students.

While I realize that this is a sensitive issue in several municipalities, the fact still remains that discrimination on the basis that we are trying to overcome is wrong. We should not be negotiating about it; we should not be trying to phase it out or grandfather it. That is why my amendment would specifically eliminate it.

Regardless of what one may think of the practice of Markham's maybe considering it to be illegal to live common-law under its current exclusionary bylaw, the question is raised: Is it right for North York to say that no more than three students can share the same house? More important, the question should be raised: Is it right for this Legislature to ignore what is going on?

This amendment is important to the students. The attendance of members of the Ontario Federation of Students in the House today is testimonial to their commitment to this issue, and I thank them. That is why I introduced Bill 94 originally and why I have presented this amendment.

All three parties, I believe, have agreed in principle to this amendment, and I believe it is now time to put that principle into practice.

Mr. Breagh: We support the amendment. It has been the subject of a fair amount of controversy around the province, as other people seem to read much more into this than I do, for example. I think it is fairly obvious—at least it is to me—that what is being practised by several municipal bylaws is not going to hold up in court; that the Constitution of this country does not allow a municipality to discriminate against anyone on this kind of basis. Whatever we do here this afternoon, that is going to be the ultimate decision.

I have no doubt in my mind that the court cases that are currently pending may take a long time, and there may be a large number of tax dollars spent on processing that through the courts. There is very little doubt in my mind that those bylaws are not going to stand up, and they should not.

If a municipality wants to address, through means of its local bylaws, how many people can live in a house, I suppose that is a reasonable

thing to do; but it is also silly in some sense of the word. Are they saying that only small families are appropriate in their municipalities; that someone who has six kids should not live in their municipalities? Most people would look at that and say, "Well, that is pretty silly." Even these days, in a modern society, if one tried to define who is allowed to live in a single-family residence and one made what many of us would have considered to be a traditional definition of a single family living in a single-family unit, one would probably say something like a husband and a wife, married, and they may have children. In any of our municipalities now, if one tried to enforce that criterion—and I do not quite know how one does this—it would be impossible.

I think there are two or three things that weave their way through this argument. The first is that I think, no matter what we do, the Constitution of Canada is not going to allow any municipality to pass a bylaw that practises discrimination, in any sense of the word, against people who live in that municipality. I think that is inevitable.

The choice for us this afternoon is to move to change this law in Ontario by this means and bring us to that conclusion or to allow municipalities and their lawyers to go through the courts for a lengthy period of time, spend all of that money and come to the same conclusion. In the pragmatic way that I sometimes deal with things like this, that would seem to me to be not a very smart way to proceed.

I am a little perturbed. I will not go through all the history of who said what on this and where and when and to whom; but I do think it is nifty to note that this afternoon, once again, the government had a clear opportunity to take the initiative and chose not to.

I want to get this on the record, because I suspect I am going to hear this afterwards. This is a government that likes to have things both ways. I would not be shocked at all to hear some members of this government say after the fact, "Well, it wasn't our amendment; it was an amendment which came from an opposition member, the member for Burlington South," and in the untoward way in which politics sometimes develop in this province try to get the best of both worlds.

Mr. Jackson: We were using our big, massive majority; that is what we were doing. We rammed it through.

Mr. Breaugh: I hope he did not bully the members too much.

I just want it on the record this afternoon that the government, the Premier, the Minister of

Housing and the Minister of Municipal Affairs have said they do not approve of exclusionary bylaws. In the almost a year now since they have brought forward this Planning Act they have not really got around to moving their amendment on the matter yet. They have chosen in rather mysterious ways to choose an amendment brought forward by another member from the third party to support that. That is fine.

Mr. Reycraft: Anything we do all year they do not criticize.

Mr. Jackson: It's the last time you are going to listen to me too, I know.

Mr. Breaugh: If the chief government whip would just calm down for a moment, all I want to say this afternoon is that is fine; if that is the way they want to proceed, that is certainly a legitimate way for us to proceed. But I do not want to hear any noise after the fact.

Mr. Smith: No, you won't.

Mr. Breaugh: A member who does not have a great deal of influence over there assures me I will not. I would not want to put a whole lot of cash on it.

I want it on the record this afternoon that all three parties are supporting this particular amendment. The moment that I hear a member of the government do that little dance that they did not really want to but they had to, I am going to be really angry. I imagine the member for Burlington South, who has given them every opportunity in the world to take the initiative on this matter and they have chosen not to, will be angry as well.

We think this decision, however controversial it might be, is inevitable. This is what is going to happen one way or the other. The only real choice that we are making here this afternoon is to expedite that decision, save the taxpayers of Ontario a rather substantial amount of money in legal costs, and to save a number of citizens of this province the aggravation of having to live through these exclusionary bylaws for a longer time.

It is easy for many of us who are not off to university or in another situation to say: "That part of our life is behind us. We don't have to worry about five or six of us living in accommodation that might not have been really perfect for all of that." But at one time, I will bet that each and every member of this assembly spent at least part of his life, while he was going to school or when he was beginning his career, in accommodation that was not exactly ideal.

There are still lots of people in our society who have to do exactly that, and the exclusionary bylaws that are in operation in, I think, 10 of our municipalities are not really addressing what I would consider to be a reasonable way to proceed in dealing with planning matters. I think those bylaws will not hold up in court.

1630

I support this amendment this afternoon, as I did when it was introduced. I regret somewhat that the government has chosen not to do anything about it in all of that time, but the only proviso I put on what might be said in here this afternoon is that the government of Ontario also supports it. I suppose I might be speaking too quickly here, because the minister has not actually said so in the last five minutes, but at least at the beginning of the afternoon even the Minister of Municipal Affairs, who often treads very softly and very faintly, was courageous enough to say that he supports this amendment. I hope that by the end of the proceedings this afternoon he will still support this amendment, because he ought to.

Hon. Mr. Eakins: I believe my opening statement addressed the specific issues very well. I want to say also that our ministry has consulted with municipalities; there is no thought of whether we consulted. We went around the province, along with staff of the Ministry of Housing to have input and to explain this to municipalities. As a result of that, I was very clear in my opening statement. I want to reiterate that we will be supporting the amendment as moved.

Mr. Jackson: In fairness, although I appreciated the tirade and support by the NDP Housing critic, I should put on the record that I do appreciate the fact that the minister has consulted. He did not consult for three and five years, which some ministers of the crown are doing. He did make a very candid statement to me in the House by stating that if his government had promised it, he would in fact look at it and they would probably do it. That kind of promise, when delivered, is rare from this government. Therefore, when it does occur, I think all members of the House also should be mindful that he has in fact honoured that commitment.

I wanted to thank the minister and to at least put it on the record. In fact, it is a rare circumstance in Ontario today when a Liberal promise can be kept. I want to thank the government for that.

Motion agreed to.

Sections 15 to 27, inclusive, agreed to.

The Deputy Chairman: We have some outstanding divisions with respect to earlier amendments.

DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY OF MUSKOKA AMENDMENT ACT

Consideration of Bill 169, An Act to amend the District Municipality of Muskoka Act.

Mr. Chairman: Are there any questions, comments or amendments to some sections, and if so, to which sections?

Hon. Mr. Eakins: I move that subsection 51(2)–

Mr. Chairman: Minister, we are listing right now. Which sections would you like to amend, just listing?

Hon. Mr. Eakins: Section 51.

Mr. Chairman: In section 1; is that it?

Mr. Breaugh: Maybe I can help. I may be wrong in this, but the list I have indicates that the government intends to move motions to subsections 51(2), 51(4), 51(5) and 51(6). If they are still staying the course, that is probably where they intend to move their amendments.

Mr. McCague: I have four or five amendments: subsection 51(2), 51(4), 51(5) and 51(8).

Mr. Chairman: Is it 51(8) or 51(6)?

Mr. McCague: That is the problem.

Mr. Chairman: Fair enough. Does anybody else want to amend anything else or is that it?

Section 1:

Mr. Chairman: Hon. Mr. Eakins moves that subsection 51(2) of the act, as set out in section 1 of the bill, be amended by striking out "34" in the first line.

Hon. Mr. Eakins: This relates to the town of Bracebridge official plan. Amendment 34 was approved by the Ontario Municipal Board, permitting Bracebridge theme park. The project was never built. The OMB therefore withdrew its approval and amendment 34 is simply being removed from the bill. It is simply a technicality.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: Hon. Mr. Eakins moves that subsection 51(4) of the act, as set out in section 1 of the bill, be amended by striking out "10, 18, 22" and "53" in the second line.

Hon. Mr. Eakins: These amendments relate to the town of Gravenhurst. All of these amendments have already been incorporated in the town of Gravenhurst official plan. They are not needed in the bill and are being deleted.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: Hon. Mr. Eakins moves that subsection 51(5) of the act, as set out in section 1 of the bill, be struck out and the following substituted therefor:

“Official plan, town of Huntsville

“(5) Amendment numbered 58 as approved and amendments numbered 1, 14, 23, 26, 39, 45 and 66 to the district plan are hereby removed from the district plan and become the official plan of the town of Huntsville.

Hon. Mr. Eakins: These amendments relate to the town of Huntsville. All of the amendments mentioned are still required in the bill. Amendments 9, 21, 24, 25, 30, 32, 33, 39, 42, 44, 27 and 47 are deleted because they have already been incorporated into the Huntsville official plan.

Motion agreed to.

The Deputy Chairman: Hon. Mr. Eakins moves that subsection 51(8) of the act, as set out in section 1 of the bill, be amended by striking out “(7)” in the last line and inserting in lieu thereof “(3), (4), (6) and (7).”

Hon. Mr. Eakins: This amendment relates to the town of Huntsville. Amendments 27 and 47 will be retained in the district plan and all local plans except Huntsville. The amendments are already included in the Huntsville official plan.

Motion agreed to.

Section 1, as amended, agreed to.

Sections 2 and 3 agreed to.

Bill, as amended, ordered to be reported.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Eakins, the committee of the whole House reported progress on one bill and reported one bill with certain amendments.

INDEPENDENT HEALTH FACILITIES ACT

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 147, An Act respecting Independent Health Facilities.

Mr. Reycraft: Mr. Speaker, I believe either the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) or her parliamentary assistant are on the way to the chamber at the moment. My understanding is that the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston) was the last speaker on this bill and that he has completed his remarks. The member for Burlington South (Mr. Jackson) indicated to me that he was prepared to speak on the bill. I am not sure he is aware that we are at this stage in the proceedings this afternoon. Perhaps someone can get in touch with him. I suggest we might be

able to pause for a few minutes until the minister or the parliamentary assistant gets here.

Mr. Breagh: We are quite in agreement that we recess until somebody shows up so we can do something.

Is there a relapse standing order that I am not aware of or are we adjourned for 10 minutes? Is that agreeable?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. M. C. Ray): Is everybody agreeable to this?

Agreed to.

The House recessed at 4:44 p.m.

1655

Mr. Jackson: I am delighted to see the House leader in the House to monitor and measure my prepared text on Bill 147, An Act respecting Independent Health Facilities.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Leadership candidates are thought to be best when they are extemporaneous.

Mr. Jackson: Perhaps the House leader would let me get on my mark before he starts his rabble and his rousing. The member will at least let me get into page 1.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: He is not always nice to our House leader.

Mr. Jackson: Anyway, I always appreciate his kind quips when they are directed at our House leader, and I would ask him to continue in that vein.

I am here today to participate in the debate on Bill 147, the Independent Health Facilities Act. I am pleased to put on record some of the concerns I have with this bill and its timing at this unique period in Ontario's health care history, a bill that is about our beleaguered health care system.

It is with no small amount of apprehension that I speak on this proposed bill, given the Liberal government's past record with respect to health care administration in our province.

This government's infamous legacy with respect to health care began with the introduction and passage of Bill 94, not the same bill I was referring to when I spoke in this House about half an hour ago. That legislation, replete with its simplistic logic and its simplistic ideological overtones, has become a hallmark for this government and its treatment of health care issues. Members will recall that bill was supposed to ensure universality of access to health care services for all the citizens of Ontario.

To accomplish this, the Liberal government, together with its colleagues in the New Democratic Party at the time, in a minority government

and armed with an accord, decided to remove from doctors the right to set their own fees as an independent profession, a freedom that misleadingly and inaccurately was being referred to as extra-billing. Instead, as we know today, doctors' fees are in fact set by the state.

The undue emotionalism surrounding this legislation was purposely fanned by our politicians in this House and served to mask some of the real, serious issues affecting the whole issue of accessibility to health care. What we had was a debate that degenerated into an issue of salaries and the misinformation on overbilling. Therefore, it is my belief that the citizens of Ontario were given the wrong image and the wrong understanding of what constitutes accessibility to what we have come to appreciate as being a world-class health care system.

The fact was that those doctors who billed according to the Ontario health insurance plan fee schedule did so because of their personal choice, as did the large numbers of doctors in Ontario who had opted out. If there were any problems with universal accessibility to health care delivery, these surely could have been settled through rational discussion, through mediation and even through arbitration between the doctors and the government, if they so chose to do.

We all know from history that the Premier (Mr. Peterson) decided against that move, that it was a responsible option for negotiation. It is still, it would appear, the methodology by which this government operates in dealing with health care professionals and their fees, and I might as well add, their relationship and negotiating stance with teachers in this province and members of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union.

However, as subsequent history to the Bill 94 debate has borne out, the Premier, we believe, had an additional goal in mind when he set the stage with Bill 94. The goal was the centralized exercise of government control over all of our professions, and especially the medical profession.

As we know, part of the function of a profession has always been its responsibility and right to govern itself as an autonomous unit within our society. Historically, professions have always established and maintained high standards of professional and ethical conduct which their members are obliged to uphold in their daily lives.

The independence enjoyed by the professions allowed them to perform the important functions of providing a buffer between citizens and government, the two groups they serve. These were important checks on autocratic power, as well as preventing mass society from taking root and developing in terms of eliminating this relationship between the patient, the doctor and the state.

Bill 94 only pretended to address universal health care accessibility. It has only served to make health care less accessible to Ontarians who must now face the kinds of lineups and equipment shortages in hospitals that are more characteristic of health care delivery systems in other parts of this world.

It was the first in a series of concerted attacks on the profession that were intended to rob it of its historical role of keeping intact our society on the basis of its health and its comfort and the knowledge that its health services were protected. Somehow, we were told by this Liberal government, it was more qualified than the actual health care practitioners to decide on what was best for the patient and what was not best for the patient.

Mr. Fleet: What nonsense; no one ever said that.

Mr. Jackson: I am glad I have aroused at least some response from a member of the government party. It is obvious what the intention of Bill 147 is. It is not surreptitiously done; it is done in a very open fashion. We are going to change fundamentally those insured benefits and services that have been traditionally honoured and respected in this province and we are going to change that with bureaucratically determined and prescribed services.

If the Liberal members opposite do not wish to take seriously the significance of that fundamental adjustment in the government's approach, whether it has to do with health care or any other regulation of government, then they can choose not to listen. But I can assure them I have been inundated, not only by patients, but also by health care professionals—nurses, doctors and hospital administrators—who have all expressed their concern about the implications of this bill, which seems to be an all-encompassing approach that lacks clarity and commitment on the part of the government to the stated principles of its bill.

As I have stated, somehow we were told that the government seemed better qualified than the very medical practitioners we had historically and traditionally relied upon to determine what is best in terms of society's health needs. I think

this point has been further underscored by what appears to be the government's approach, not only on health care matters but by other approaches to negotiating with professionals, such as the ophthalmologists, the obstetricians and other groups that have not been dealt with fairly. What has now crept on to the bargaining table with these groups is access to insured services and capitation of insured services.

My point simply is that we are seeing more and more examples of the very concern I have raised about this bill creeping into the government's approach to guaranteeing universal access to the full range of health care needs in this province.

However, to speak more specifically to this bill, I have analysed the bill. I have looked at Bill 147 very carefully. I get a sense, when I listen to the minister as well, that the purpose of this bill is to provide a vehicle for the Minister of Health to develop community-based health facilities, through which many medical services previously performed in hospitals may now be accomplished outside of hospitals. That is her stated purpose for the bill.

She further suggests the bill is intended to allow already existing community health centres and health service organizations to expand their existing roles. These independent facilities would function in a manner similar to hospitals with their outpatient clinics where patients are not required to stay overnight in a hospital.

I have no argument with the stated goals as set out by the minister. In fact, many members of this House will be aware that this is what the Evans report suggested to us was a goal to be moved towards by any government that wished to tackle the health care issue in the future.

But unfortunately, in the past 20 years we have seen an unprecedented shift of emphasis in the terms of delivery of health care and we have seen an unprecedented shift in the extent of health care services and their delivery in this province. This has really come to a head in the last two years, as has been emphasized with the questions raised on the floor of the Legislature by the two opposition parties with respect to access and a greater limit to access for certain medical procedures in this province.

We expect the minister believes very clearly that her bill will somehow encourage a greater sensitivity to community involvement, so for that reason we are most anxious to make sure the minister addresses the relationship between her bill, Bill 147, and the health planning councils that operate throughout this province and what

role they will perform in terms of their relationship to the goals stated in Bill 147.

The effectiveness of the delivery of health care services is therefore seen to be a function of the way in which the total human context is allowed to form part of the system in which it delivers. We have to be assured that the doctors, the nurses, the advisory councils, all the players in the delivery of health care feel and are assured that they will have a meaningful role to play within that.

We are not satisfied on the basis of what we have seen in the bill as it now sits before us in the House. Elements of the proposed Bill 147 appear to be proceeding in a completely opposite direction to those goals I have addressed that the minister has stated.

It appears to want even greater bureaucratic control over our health care system, at the same time as it is supposed to provide more sensitive and more community-based health care delivery. It seems the government is trying to have it both ways, to speak out of both sides of its mouth, to have the best of both approaches, to have all the control but not have the responsibility if things will not work.

This situation, which is clear on the face of it, leads me to doubt seriously whether this bill is the appropriate legislative mechanism to achieve the stated goals set out by the government and the minister. In fact, Bill 147 is another instance of the desire of this government to expand its already considerable control over our health care delivery services.

It also constitutes another attack upon the integrity of the medical profession. It will, I believe, serve to disrupt the doctor-patient relationship by undermining the confidentiality which is so central to that relationship and which is so integral to the oath doctors take as a function of their humanitarian services.

The proposed bill gives quite excessive powers to ministry inspectors who will, if this bill is passed into law, have the right to enter a doctor's office whether at an independent health facility location or not. At times, without even a warrant, they would be able to enter one of these premises and seize all the medical records they so choose.

I ask all members of this House if they are comfortable with this kind of power and if they do not themselves see this as a breach or violation of their rights of confidentiality. Is this not an unwarranted intrusion into yet another sphere of our private lives that we are seeing occurring with greater and greater incidence in society?

However, with the recent passing of my amendment on exclusionary bylaws, I can hardly chastise the government for having now seen the light, reversing itself and supporting the elimination of those exclusionary bylaws. At least, today we have had one sample of the government wanting to get out of the private lives of citizens based on the fact that they may or may not be related.

1710

Again, Mr. Speaker, you would caution me and tell me that I am not speaking to the bill. I am merely referencing the point that today we have at least got the government intruding with one bill and not intruding with an amendment to another bill.

It also appears that the government is further eroding the professional foundations and the practices of physicians in this province. This will have the effect of inhibiting part of the spontaneity which occurs in the relationship between a patient and a doctor, with its objectives of curing the patient, of getting to the source of the ills; and it raises serious questions about those matters which a doctor might record in a given patient record and the degree to which the doctor always feels somewhat reserved in making the appropriate notes.

I believe, quite frankly, that sufficient thought has not gone into that point, if the government is going to consider the sweeping powers it has with dragging out patient files and whether or not there is the kind of security and control over those files once they have been removed. I remember three years ago when a member of this House brought forward, in a green plastic bag, a whole series of confidential documents which had been stacked up at the Ministry of Housing. Members in the opposition, interestingly, read through these files, all very confidential, because with the size of the government bureaucracy it was obvious that the government was unable to warrant the confidentiality of those reports when it had them in its possession.

When we raise these matters in the House, we raise them for very specific reasons; for very specific concerns about the government's ability to warrant what it says it will do. In this instance, it is that it will maintain the privacy and confidentiality of those records once it has seized them; but there is no guarantee of that.

By attempting to destroy the professional right of autonomy and of autonomous self-governance by the doctors' profession, the Liberals will contribute significantly, in my view, to an accelerated rate of deterioration of our health

care because of that intrusion and because of the breakdown of that relationship.

Ontario's health care system was world-class long before the members opposite came to occupy those seats of responsibility. It is incumbent upon them to ensure that they take every opportunity to maintain the world-class status of our health care system. Without the responses to the questions that we have raised about this bill, we feel the members opposite are not administering their responsibility as a governing party.

Furthermore, the powers which this bill will give to the Minister of Health are quite excessive. Too much power is concentrated with the minister. The minister will now have the power to revoke, deny or grant a licence for an independent health facility without submitting the process to an appeal process.

That is pretty strong authority. We question its value, given the fact that the government can regulate, for example, a particular procedure in Ontario, and access to that procedure can be controlled by virtue of the power vested with the minister. Therefore, we would not even have a process of appeal—not that the independent facility should be allowed to open but to debate the issue of whether or not Ontario's citizens should have access to the procedures that would be performed in such a clinic.

Or does it mean, for example, that the minister could say: "In Metro Toronto we only need five walk-in eye clinics. We need more of them in some other part of the province, but as long as we capitate the number of health facilities that would open in a given city, we would then control the number of operations that would be done in a given year?"

If that is the minister's interpretation of health care accessibility, then I seriously question whether this bill could be abused, if not by this government, then by any future government. It just gives far too much power to the minister to regulate access to procedures. As I have said in this House on many occasions, if a bill purports to do one thing but has the potential to do something entirely different, then it is a bill that should be considered and analysed very carefully.

That is why my support for this bill is rather tenuous and why I will be, as a member of the standing committee on social development, anxious to have the bill before us for review, so that we can listen to not only the minister and the ministry representatives but also to the clear and cogent concerns that have been expressed by

health care providers and health care service operators in this province.

Back to the issue of licensing, which I feel the minister has far too much control over. I find it to be a particularly distressing aspect of this bill that the licensing process for independent health facilities could be solely at the whim of the minister and treated in the fashion I have suggested. Like any good government bureaucracy, it should be subjected to the same types of checks and balances we apply more evenly to other decisions made in this House. There is a role for the Legislature, there is a role for the professions to ensure there are those checks and balances in the system so the minister cannot arbitrarily remove certain procedures or control the access to those procedures through the use of these independent health facilities.

The licensing process itself appears to be very complex and very expensive, with a tremendous number of restrictions placed on it. The licence itself cannot be transferred and it can be taken away, as I said, without any chance of appeal. I feel that the notion of appeals in this province is a very important notion. We as legislators should remove that process of appeal on very rare occasions and I submit it is inappropriate to do so in this instance.

I have referred to but would like to address more directly the accompanying changes to the Health Insurance Act, which are spoken to in this bill, which will effectively change the definition of what can be covered by the Ontario health insurance plan from "any medically necessary procedure" to "procedures that are prescribed by government regulation."

I need not remind members of this House of the debate, and I have referred to Bill 94, where all manner of examples were brought before a committee and this House with respect to procedures which have been limited by governments in England, in Quebec and several other jurisdictions around the world. They have used a clause similar to this in order, for example, to suggest that if you are 65 years of age, the state does not get an equitable return on, say, a retina transplant, that given that a finite number of them will be done in a given year in this province, they will only be performed for young adults and children.

I do not wish to invite a piece of legislation which provides that much power and control for a minister to exercise and, quite frankly, to do that without ever even having to come to this Legislature to discuss or debate it. I think it is

inappropriate that we would support legislation that would allow for that.

For this reason, I am nervous about the government taking away from the medical profession the responsibility to help determine when a patient needs a service. The government's role is to make sure that we have an environment in which a service can be provided. In this instance if I were to pass some of the elements of this bill, as a citizen, I would be in a sense saying that I would rather be diagnosed by the state than be diagnosed by my own physician.

1720

Mr. Fleet: That's really ridiculous, really silly. It's not what it says.

Mr. Jackson: As I said to the member for High Park-Swansea, he missed the major debate on Bill 94 and he would be aware that the very clause I am referring to is the clause that was used by a government not too unfriendly to his, in Quebec, to regulate access to certain procedures. It is the same philosophy and control which was utilized in the—

Mr. Fleet: You know that the physicians will still prescribe what is needed.

Mr. Jackson: Yes, and given that I suspect that comment from the member for High Park-Swansea is now on the record, he is absolutely right, but the state will arbitrate how many of those diagnoses will be allowed to be treated. That is the whole point of what I am suggesting.

Mr. Fleet: People will still get the medical care they require. You know that.

Mr. Jackson: I am just trying to determine whether the government has any speakers for the balance of the afternoon on this very important subject.

Mr. Keyes: We always want to listen.

Mr. Fleet: However silly your suggestions may be.

Mr. Jackson: The member has suggested that what I am providing in this debate are merely suggestions. I have raised questions, and I hope that the member will listen to those questions, because I am only reiterating the kinds of concerns that have come from health care providers, represented by a parent association, in his own riding. I am only raising legitimate questions which have been raised by patients in his riding and others who have not had access to medical treatment with the same speed and the same confidence they had enjoyed in previous years, whether it was a previous administration

or not. So I would hope that the member would not prejudge the debate but rather would listen more to the fact that I am raising questions for his ears as well.

Again, on the issue of the fact that there are waiting lists for some major medical treatments in this province, instead of addressing the very real needs of hospitals, we now have a government which has suggested that this bill has some major significance in terms of providing a solution to Ontario's health care dilemma. We know that this bill is going to be discussed and debated at public hearings and that the meat of this bill or the action agenda for this bill will really not occur until early summer or even early fall.

I also would like to put on the record and in context my concern that this government appears to try to suggest to the public at large that it is working on a solution. If the net effect of this bill is to suggest that the commitments that have been made for thousands of hospital beds all across this province are not going to be met, and therefore the government is left with the question "Well, how do we reduce the demand on hospitals beds, because we cannot provide more hospitals beds?"—if that, in effect, is the real debate in Ontario today, then this bill is a poor substitute, because the bill does not give clear time lines and does not give clear direction that, in fact, is what it is doing.

It has a stated goal within it that it is the government's hope that it can take some procedures that require overnight stays in hospital and convert those into outpatient clinic services for a variety of medical procedures in this province.

There are several members opposite who represent communities and who made outstanding, whopping big political announcements in the last provincial election. In fact, those are political promises, and we all know what kind of track record we have had on political promises since that fateful day a year ago September.

However, if the real issue here is that Ontario cannot honour its commitment to the hospital bed needs, then we should be moving very quickly, very openly and very forcefully in terms of resolving that dilemma. We should be honest and open if we are not able to provide those hospital beds as promised.

I, too, represent a community. Like many members opposite, I represent a community that had the Premier and the then-Minister of Health announce that we were eligible for 180 additional beds. I am now told we are not going to get those beds. I am told we have to take those beds which

we might have gotten and convert them into some sort of community use.

What is interesting is that statement came from the government at the very time when the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) was stating that he was not sure if he would get the money from the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) to provide the funding for the integrated homemaker program, which, as all members of this House are aware, is a program designed to help people stay out of institutions like hospitals, or at least to leave a hospital setting several days, if not weeks, early and to be able to function with support in that intermediate step.

So we have a government saying, "You are not going to get your additional hospital beds; but if you got the hospital beds, we would want you to apply them to a more community-based approach." If that is what Bill 147 is all about, the fact that we will not get the hospital beds that were promised in the last election or the hospital beds from the previous election, then the government and the minister should state that and not try to mask it under a bill which in my opinion has a lot more to do with the fact that the government can now dramatically alter accessibility to certain prescribed procedures for medical treatment in this province, and which in my opinion gives dangerously excessive powers to the minister in terms of search and seizure of doctors' offices and patients' records.

I would invite the minister, in her comments, as I will invite her when I hope she appears before our committee, to make known her real intention with this legislation. If this is simply a bill whose purpose was to oil the waters, to provide a moment of lucid vision in a storm of health care controversy, then the public will not be pacified and members of this House will not be taken in.

Quite clearly, what we are talking about here is a bill that has wide-ranging significance if not administered properly. That is why the members of the opposition are most anxious that this matter be dealt with in committee where it will be given the full light of day and the full benefit of debate.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate your indulgence. I would like to say more, but there are several members who have been moved to comment by the interjections from the member for High Park-Swansea (Mr. Fleet), who seems to feel that this legislation is going to be a panacea for Ontario's health care needs. I think that is at least one step in the right direction. At least he is

admitting there are difficulties, and that is rare with many of the members opposite.

1730

Mr. Breagh: We have opposed this bill. I think many of us who have been observers of how health care is provided in Ontario understand there are very real problems that have to be dealt with.

Perhaps the most important single thing that must be addressed is that they have to be dealt with in context. One of the first difficulties that I have with this bill is essentially the premise that some interjection of new and independent health facilities is the answer that is needed. I would argue quite the contrary, that traditionally that has been one of our problems.

In my view, the people who provide health care to the citizens in Ontario have no problem in terms of their qualifications, the kind of equipment, training and expertise that they have developed. They are some of the finest in the world, in terms of practitioners of health care at all levels operating here in Ontario.

We do have some structural problems. We have problems that allow independent health facilities, which we would most readily identify these days as hospitals, to operate in splendid isolation from one another. We have struggled with the notion that somehow they need to be co-ordinated.

We have all seen examples, in our own communities and elsewhere around the province, of places where very good ideas struggle simply because there is no need to integrate the system. In my own community, for example, we have a very good paramedic program that for years was probably one of the best in the province but was not acknowledged. It now is.

We have seen other communities with people who were functioning as paramedics, who were trained, skilled, had the equipment but did not have the co-operation of local physicians, where so often the whole concept faltered because there was not the integration that was necessary; there was not the co-operation that was necessary.

There was and still is, in every hospital and in almost every health care facility in Ontario, the continuing power struggle in the relationships between doctors and nurses, for example. That manifests itself probably more regularly in the newscasts these days around the question of the shortage of nurses.

There is and there is not a shortage of nurses. There is a shortage of people who want to work under the current kind of regime. But nurses, as anybody who has been in the hospital in the last

little while knows, are the prime providers of care. If one goes into a hospital—as I unfortunately have been able to do regularly, because my father has been ill this winter—one will identify very quickly that there are not very many doctors around on the wards; they are hard to find. One has to kind of lie in the bushes and find them at certain times in the day when they do their rounds.

So the primary provider of care, on most wards most of the time, is the nurse. There is now a proliferation of nurses' aides and orderlies and others who are providing health care, many of whom have taken courses at community colleges; some of whom have been to university; all of whom are involved in upgrading; all of whom are trying to survive in a world of providing health care that is constantly changing.

So we have some difficulties. I wish I could say that this bill was the focal point that will take us through a very difficult period, but I do not think it will. One of the key things which needs to be done before we stand much of a chance of providing a rational health care system is that we must try to get some form of consensus from those who traditionally have ruled the roost, one group of which is obviously the doctors.

Most of us were raised in a society which revered doctors, respected them a great deal, respected their knowledge, their ability to care for people. All of us, at some point in our lives, have an incident where a doctor did some wonderful thing that helped somebody in the family. So we see them in that perspective.

Sometimes, from a political point of view, we also look at them in a rather different way—not quite so kindly—as people who are in key positions in the provision of health care services all across Ontario. It is still true that if the chief of staff at the local hospital does not like somebody who is providing health care services in that community, it is going to be very difficult for that person to be accepted by the health care professionals in that area and to get on with the job.

That is still true: if the chief of staff at the local hospital does not like a paramedic program, it is going to have a tough time surviving there. If he does not like some new and developing role for nurses or nutritionists or a whole range of services, they are going to struggle.

Many of us have—I think “challenged” would be the polite word—the traditional role of doctors in our society and the traditional roles of those who would provide health care services in our society. We have looked at others who are

equally well trained but have not received the status, so to speak, in Ontario yet.

We have seen people who practise different kinds of medicine who in many ways challenge the medical establishment, and the medical establishment is almost totally in authority positions. If they do not agree that someone who is trained in a slightly different way than they are should practise medicine in Ontario, they really do not. I think that is one of the problems that I have with this. That aspect has not been thought through.

I want to discuss too a couple of other phenomena that are emerging in the last little while, and this is one of the reasons that I have some reservations about this bill. I have always argued and still will that one of the best ways to provide for the very best health care services we can is to look at alternative ways of doing that. But I want to say as clearly as I can that I am pretty specific about what I mean by that.

What I mean is that this is not an invitation for the private sector to set up shop and put the local hospital out of business, though I have nothing against a phenomenon that exists now even in my riding of a local doctor setting up a practice. In most cases now it is not a local doctor; it is a physician who has kind of turned into an investor who has decided that there ought to be something like the neighbourhood doctor walk-in clinic.

I am an advocate of health service organizations. I am an advocate of community health organizations. I like the idea of looking for ways to compensate physicians and other medical practitioners in nontraditional ways, because it seems to me that there is a great and serious financial problem attached to health care services if we continue along the traditional roads. If everybody new who is plugged into the system gets plugged in on the same fee-for-service basis as we traditionally have done, there is no tax source in the world that can finance that. That is a little bald perhaps, but I believe it is true.

We have to look at different ways of doing that. It may turn out to be some kind of a roster system. I am confused some days as to why it is that it is good enough for the nurses in the hospital, it is good enough for the administrators in the hospital, it is good enough for everybody else in the hospital to be on salary, but it is not a real good idea for a physician to be. That is a little beyond me.

If we are talking about the actual income that the physician gets, I would be quite happy to discuss that. I do not understand why that blindly has to be on a fee-for-service basis, particularly

when I know that there are really good, competent physicians operating on a salary basis in Ontario who are extremely well paid. It seems to me that the physicians themselves ought to take a look at that.

I know that they traditionally have responded to that kind of an idea by saying that in some way that is interfering with the practice of medicine. I grant that it is interfering with the way in which the doctor becomes compensated for his or her services, but I do not see how it is interfering with the practice of medicine, and that concerns me.

I am concerned that this bill, though it says, in kind of vague words, that it will give a preference to nonprofit medicine—it seems to me that it does clearly open up the door for somebody who wants to come into a community and set up shop with what is known in the United States as a private hospital. It expands in great measure what that facility might look like, what kind of health care will be provided there and who would be providing it.

I do not see this as being an appropriate alternative. If you wanted to say that we want to bring on stream some new centres where people will go for health services, I am really on side with that. If you want to say that this will be done in the nonprofit sector, in the public sector, it seems to me that the rational argument for doing that is very simply this: that the financial resources which will pay for that facility come from the public sector. That means to my mind that you do not take public moneys raised through taxation techniques in general and funnel them into the private sector.

1740

I would caution people. I know that the minister, because we have discussed this on several occasions, is not really advocating that we pour all this public money into a private institution. But it seems to me that the bill that is before us is the first step down that road. I would venture that there are no members here who have seen private hospitals at work who would advocate that.

There are very few of those in Ontario. There are some, but not many. They tend to be around things which I might call marginal in terms of medical services, cosmetic surgery and things of that nature. But once that becomes an accepted way to provide health care in Ontario, we have begun the process down what I consider to be a very wrong road.

I would like to think that this kind of bill would be brought forward in a much more comprehensive way. I think the way to do that is to start from

what we now have and to try to eliminate some of the difficulties that we have in our own structure for delivering health care.

One of the prime difficulties, of course, is that the public thinks of the hospital system in Ontario as being a public hospital system, and in many ways it is. In many ways it is funded almost exclusively by public moneys. They are, in fact, not public. You find that out when you have been Health critic for your party or when you have been involved in a local dispute around a hospital.

You find that they are in some ways public institutions, but in a legal sense, they are private institutions with their own boards, making their own decisions. They really do not have to do what the community wants them to do and they do not have to do what the provincial government wants them to do. They are in many respects pretty independent.

On some critical items, that independence becomes a bit of a problem because there is not a great deal in the way of accountability. One of the failures that we have in our own system here, in my opinion, is very simply that we have the theoretical notion that it is an independent, publicly elected board which administers the hospital. The problem is that in a real, practical way, it is not true that there are those who will attend the annual general meeting of anybody's hospital and who will vote on who sits on the board of directors.

In one theoretical way, I suppose you could claim that anybody in the community could go to that meeting and participate in the election of the board of directors. But on any occasion that I have seen, when something like that happens, the community generally gets up in arms that some interest group in the community is trying to take over the local hospital. So there is an awkwardness about that, a real awkwardness.

We have a few examples around the province of health service organizations or community health organizations that have been quite successful in providing health care in a different way to a community. The most commonly mentioned one is in Sault Ste. Marie, but there are a number of them around Ontario. Just a little while ago, the minister announced the initial funding for an institution of that kind in the south end of my riding. We welcome that because I think that is one of the alternatives that has to be explored and developed.

Those kinds of things could happen under this bill, but they certainly are not guaranteed. There certainly is the very real prospect that they will be

in competition for the provision of health care services in any of our communities with somebody who might come in from the United States, for example, with a very viable commercial option.

I do not believe that we hate Americans or anything like that, or that just because some idea comes in from the United States, it is a bad idea. I do not believe any of that but I do believe that over a long period of time, we have developed a distinctly Canadian form of medicare. It is done in different ways in different provinces, but it is different from what you will see anywhere else in the world.

It is not the British system at all, not by a long shot. It is not the American system. It is not the Scandinavian system. It is ours. It is one of the few things that you could point to that is typically Canadian, developed by us. If you talk to the population at large almost everyone would say, I think, that the biggest, smartest thing governments ever did in Canada was to introduce the concept of medicare. They are immensely proud that nobody in Canada, they think, will ever go bankrupt because somebody in the family got sick.

That is not really quite true, but in the main, it is. I say it is not really quite true because last week a guy in a flower shop in Oshawa showed me the bill he pays each month for the copayment for his wife who is sick in a chronic care bed in the Oshawa General Hospital. It is something like \$464 a month. It is certainly nothing near what he would pay if that were in the United States of America, but on a pensioner's income, that is a big chunk of money.

He is not complaining about the kind of care she is getting. He is not complaining about the fact that there is a good facility in his own community which can provide that care. He is simply stating that it is a big chunk of his pension cheque that every month goes to a hospital. The irony, of course, is that there are active treatment beds all across Ontario full of people who are not appropriately placed, and we know that. That has been true for some time.

In looking at how we distribute health care around Ontario, we have tried to develop a better way of allocating our resources, but it has been difficult. It has been difficult because we do not have a really integrated health care system. We have kind of independent places where people go. There is no reason why a general hospital has to deal with a community health organization, and they often do not.

For many of us who would argue that a health care system at its best would be community-based, we really have to acknowledge the reality that our community-based systems in Ontario are struggling to survive, whether it is the Red Cross, the Victorian Order of Nurses or any other kind of community health care group we have working in our constituencies.

When you talk to them, one of the first things that hits you is that they have no solid financial basis on which to operate. All of these agencies, doing what many of us think is really the thing that ought to be done, struggle for funding. They compete with the hospitals to run community-based programming. They compete with local teaching institutions to do that. Whether it is the Red Cross saying it cannot keep its homemaker program going or whether it is the VON saying, "We'd like to do more home visitations, but we have to hook into some program that is operated by the Ministry of Health out of one of our other facilities to do that," they are all having difficulty.

The truth, and I have heard doctors say this a lot, is that we do not use our hospitals in the right way. The reason our people do not is that there is no other place to go. In your community, on a Saturday night, where else would you go to get medical care but your local hospital? There is no place else to go.

If our emergency wards are full of people who should not be there, one of the prime reasons is that there is no place else in the community where they can get medical care of any kind, other than at a hospital.

I suppose in some respects this bill would open up some of the treatment points where people could go. Some would argue that it would be appropriate under legislation such as this to have the general hospital emergency ward open, as it is now, and that there would be some community health service organization open and some private clinic elsewhere open. But the truth is, if that is the way it works out, they will probably all suffer immensely. If it is an independent health facilities group that is working there and they do not have to talk to one another, to integrate and plan together and co-ordinate the kind of services they provide, they are all going to suffer.

You run into this problem every day, in every way, no matter where you go in Ontario. If our hospitals, for example, have developed a good lab system of their own and somebody else wants to come into town and set up another private lab, and all the doctors in town decide: "That's a real good financial investment. I'm going to invest in

the private lab, and more than that, I'm going to send all my business to the private lab," one of the first phenomena you discover is that the big lab you built at the general hospital out of tax dollars does not have any business any more because everybody is sending his stuff off to the private lab.

That is pretty hard to explain to the people who say: "What is this? We paid to set up the lab in the general hospital. We pay through our tax dollars, the OHIP money the doctor gets, but the doctor sends all his lab services off to a private lab somewhere else."

1750

You see, the system misses. That, I think, is what is wrong with this bill. If the government took some of the ideas in here and integrated them, I think it would address itself to some of the major problems it has.

Part of the agony around Ontario these days is that those who are in key positions, who can make the decisions about how we spend the health care dollar, very often get themselves positioned so they can in fact exclude other options even though they might be more sensible.

For example, there is a clear, vested interest now among many people, not just doctors, to fund the hospitals. We have had throughout the fall session of the Legislature, which has spilled over into the winter and on into the spring now, discussions about all the problems our hospitals are having. They are for real. It is very difficult. I have sat in my constituency office, as many of the members have, and tried to explain to somebody this deal about how you get on a list for surgery at various hospitals, and why hospitals in Ontario cannot provide surgical procedures that patients clearly need.

That is an agonizing thing to do. I have had people in my riding die because they could not get on a surgical list somewhere. There are phone calls in my office now about people who have been booked into downtown Toronto hospitals such as St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto General Hospital, Sunnybrook Medical Centre—all kinds of places here—for surgery for many months now. They thought they were ready to go into the hospital and have the surgery done and were told by means of a phone call in the morning: "That procedure will not happen today. Sorry, you go back on the waiting list." That is a very difficult thing to explain.

We have had to be truthful about it, too. Some physicians are doing things I find a little offensive around the edges. Physicians on

occasion tell their patients: "The reason you can't get your surgical procedure done today is that the government of Ontario is real mean and won't fund us to the extent we'd like." What they forget to mention is that there are some other places and some other ways in which that could be done, but the truth is that is not always there either. I wish it were. I wish there were a central registry.

There is some stuff that is really impossible to explain. I do not know how you explain to people in any community in Ontario that emergency wards are closed part of the time, because they think that an emergency ward is a place you go when there is an emergency, that they put you in the ambulance and take you to the nearest facility. People in Ontario do not understand why they ride around in an ambulance, past hospital after hospital, to get to the emergency ward that is open.

What is more, people understand the system better than the professionals sometimes. People know that emergency ward is not closed, that there are practitioners there, that what is put in place now is a system to better utilize the emergency wards in places where there is more than one hospital.

But it is a system that has some flaws in it. It is a system that has some dangers in it. Many of us await with sad anticipation the day when somebody dies in an ambulance, because then we are going to find out who is responsible for the patient who is in the back of that ambulance. Is it the doctor who said, "No, I'm closing the emergency ward today, because we're in a different classification now"? Is it the Minister of Health, who approved this policy? Is it the ambulance driver, who has the patient most directly in his care? There is a very difficult legal question to be resolved here.

I have talked to some ambulance drivers and I know they are extremely apprehensive that this has not been resolved yet. They think it surely will not turn out to be the ambulance driver who gets nailed with that lawsuit, but they are not sure. If you analyse who is directly in charge of this patient at that moment, some will give you the legal argument that there probably is a physician somewhere who is directing that ambulance, and that may be the one.

But I am sure there will be some lawyers who will go to court and say: "Let's put them all on the list. Let's say the Minister of Health who approved the program. Let's say the chief of staff who said, 'Let's implement that program.' Let's say the physician in the emergency ward who said, 'No, we are closed now; go somewhere

else.' Let's finally say the ambulance driver, because he was there." That is generally the way lawsuits go these days.

That is a difficult thing to do. It is a difficult way to proceed. That is basically the problem I have with this bill. I do not sense that two or three very necessary components are in place. First of all, I have no sense that the people who provide health care in Ontario feel this is the consensus way to go. I do not think that is there at all.

I have no sense we have resolved some of the very difficult existing problems in the health care system. I know many members here will have been involved in some dispute at their local hospital over who gets the funding. It is one of the pretty difficult things a member gets into. He understands part of it but not all of it. It is almost impossible, because we are not medical practitioners, to understand whether this new type of equipment is absolutely essential in our hospital. Certainly, there is some duplication. Certainly, it is difficult for lay people like all of us to make these kinds of decisions. Certainly, we depend a lot on the professionals in the system to advise us.

I think you would also have to ask, in a health care system the size of the one here in Metropolitan Toronto, is there not room somewhere in that system to generate a thing called a birthing centre? It is not a real expensive idea. It is one that has been discussed and analysed for five, 10, or 15 years. Is there not somewhere in this whole expensive health care system where that could be accommodated for those people who think that is what they need, that it is an appropriate thing to do?

When you get involved in the world of high-tech medicine, you soon get into very expensive medicine. It is not possible for us to understand what is the best machine to buy, what is the best kind of training to give to the staff, what is absolutely essential and what is not. It is tough for us to make that kind of decision, but what fails us here is that there really is not a good mechanism for making that decision either.

It would not be nearly as important for all of us to understand the workings of this equipment if we were confident that we did not have to, that the professionals had a place where they could advise us, that we could adjudicate the disputes involved in that and resolve some of these problems.

Let me conclude my remarks on this bill by pointing out some things that I think are absolutely vital before the government proceeds in this way. At the end of a long consultation

process, perhaps they could do something like this, but while they are in the middle of fighting a pitched war involving the nurses in our hospitals in Ontario, this bill is not going to do much for anybody.

While we have unresolved funding problems with existing hospitals in Ontario, this bill is not going to do very much for us either. While we have health care facilities in alternative models—the health service organizations and things of that nature—that are still struggling to get identified let alone properly funded, this bill is not going to do much for us. While we still have what we would loosely call community-based services like the Red Cross or the Victorian Order of Nurses that do not have a secure financial basis for what they are trying to do in our communities, this bill is not going to do very much for us.

I am drawn back to the example in my own family that has happened over the winter. My dad is 90 years old and he had a little bit of surgery

this winter. On that aspect of it, the surgery did not work the first time, so it has been repeated. He should have had home care in his own home and it was not available in his community. After struggling with that for a little while, it is kind of available, but not really. That is the reality in most communities in Ontario.

The basics have not been accomplished that would allow the government to proceed with this type of legislation at this time. That is essentially what is wrong with this bill. They have not resolved the existing problems and they have not made clear enough what their alternatives are. They have not developed the consensus around them that is really absolutely vital before they proceed with the bill.

On motion by Mrs. Marland, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ORDERS AND NOTICES

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

399. Mr. Jackson: Would the Minister of Labour provide the texts (with direct English translations provided where necessary) of all radio commercials concerning Bill 162 and/or workers' compensation reform which have been broadcast to date? [Tabled January 4, 1989]

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Attached please find the text in all languages for the workers' compensation-Bill 162 radio advertisements:

English-language text

"When workplace accidents happen, injured workers and their families need help. They need income protection and support in their efforts to return to the job.

"The Ontario government has made proposals in the Legislature to change workers' compensation so that help for injured workers will be more fair and effective.

"Printed information on these proposals is available at the Ontario Ministry of Labour office nearest you.

"Get your copy today/tomorrow/Monday." (etc., depending on broadcast date)

French-language text

Quand un accident survient sur le lieu de travail, l'ouvrier qui a été blessé et sa famille ont besoin d'aide. Le revenu du travailleur doit être sauvegardé et celui-ci doit bénéficier d'un soutien pour pouvoir retourner travailler.

Le gouvernement de l'Ontario a proposé des mesures à l'Assemblée législative, visant à modifier les indemnités des travailleurs de façon que l'aide qui leur est accoée soit plus juste et plus efficace.

Vous pouvez vous procurer de la documentation sur ces propositions auprès d'un bureau du ministère du Travail de l'Ontario.

Procurez-vous votre exemplaire aujourd'hui/demain/lundi, etc., selon la date de l'émission.

Greek-language translation

"When workplace accidents happen, injured workers and their families need help. They need income protection and support in their efforts to return to the job.

"The Ontario government has made proposals in the Legislature to change workers' compensation so that help for injured workers will be more fair and effective.

"Information on these proposals is available at the Ontario Ministry of Labour office nearest you.

"Get your copy right away!"

Italian-language translation

"When a workplace accident happens, the injured worker and his family need help, help to protect their income and prompt return to the work world. The Ontario government has introduced into the Legislature a bill to favour a fair and more efficient treatment of injured workers by the workers' compensation. Printed information on this new proposal is available to you at the Ontario Ministry of Labour office. Get informed today."

Portuguese-language translation

"When accidents happen at the workplace, the injured workers and their families need help. They need protection of income and support in their efforts to return to the job.

"The government of Ontario has made proposals in the Legislature to change the compensation of workers so that the help to the workers injured will be more fair and effective.

"Printed information about these proposals is available at the nearest office of the Ministry of Labour of Ontario.

"Get your copy immediately."

Chinese-language translation

"When workplace accidents happen, injured workers and their families need help. They need income protection and support in their efforts to return to the job.

"The Ontario government has made proposals in the Legislature to change workers' compensation so that help for injured workers will be more fair and effective.

"Printed information on these proposals is available at the Ontario Ministry of Labour office nearest you.

"Make sure to obtain your copy right away!"

Spanish-language translation

"When accidents happen in the workplace, injured workers need help to protect their income and in order to return to work.

"The Ontario government has made proposals in the Legislature to change workers' compensation so that help for those workers affected will be more fair and effective.

"Information regarding these proposals is available at the nearest office of the Ministry of Labour.

"Get your copy right away!"

Texts also supplied in Chinese, Greek, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish.

400. Mr. Jackson: Would the Minister of Labour provide the names of all radio stations which are or have been broadcasting commercials concerning Bill 162 and/or workers' compensation reform? [Tabled January 4, 1989]

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Following are the names of all radio stations that broadcast commercials concerning Bill 162:

CHAM-AM Hamilton; CHML-AM Hamilton; CKOC-AM Hamilton; CHYM-AM Kitchener; CKKW-AM Kitchener; CFPL-FM London; CIQM-FM London; CJBK-AM London; CKSL-AM London; CKPR-AM Thunder Bay; CJSD-FM Thunder Bay; CFGM-AM Richmond Hill; CFRB-AM Toronto; CFTR-AM Toronto; CHFI-FM Toronto; CHUM-FM Toronto; CHUM-AM Toronto; CILQ-FM Toronto; CJCL-AM Toronto; CKEY-AM Toronto; CKFM-FM Toronto;

CFGO-AM Ottawa; CFRA-AM Ottawa; CHEZ-FM Ottawa; CIWW-AM Ottawa; CKBY-FM Ottawa; CFTF-FM Gatineau, Quebec; CJRC-AM Gatineau, Quebec; CHEQ-FM Smiths Falls; CHOK-AM Sarnia; CKTY-AM Sarnia; CKSO-AM Sudbury; CHNO-AM Sudbury; CFFX-AM Kingston; CHUC-AM Cobourg; CFMP-AM Peterborough; CKPR-AM Thunder Bay; CFYN-AM Sault Ste. Marie; CFOS-AM Owen Sound; CJTT-AM New Liskeard; CFPS-AM Port Elgin;

CHIN-AM Toronto; CHIN-FM Toronto;

CJOY-AM Guelph; CIAM-AM Cambridge; CPWA-FM Toronto; CHAS-FM Sault Ste. Marie; CJQM-FM Sault Ste. Marie; CHIR-FM Toronto; CHCR-FM Toronto; CIRV-FM Toronto; CJMR-AM Oakville; CHWO-AM Oakville; CIAO-AM Brampton; CING-FM Burlington; CKCU-FM Ottawa; CHYR-AM Leamington; CKAR-AM Oshawa; CKQT-FM Oshawa; and CFBR-AM Sudbury.

401. Mr. Jackson: Would the Minister of Labour provide the following information concerning each radio station which is or has been broadcasting commercials concerning Bill 162 and/or workers' compensation reform: (a) the station's address and broadcast frequency; (b) the duration of the advertising campaign; (c) the number of times each commercial was broadcast each day; (d) the time slot(s) in which each commercial was broadcast each day and the estimated audience for each time slot, and (e) the total cost of the airtime purchased from that station? [Tabled January 4, 1989]

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Attached please find the information requested regarding each station which broadcast radio commercials concerning Workers' compensation reform, Bill 162.

(a) The station addresses and broadcast frequencies are attached.

(b) In all cases, the duration of the campaign was from December 5 to December 18, 1988.

(c) and (d) Radio time is purchased on a number of exposures per week basis. Indicated is the number of exposures per week and the daily broadcast times.

(e) The total cost of air time for each station is attached.

Station address and broadcast frequency

CHAM-AM
Moffat Communications Ltd.
2 King Street West
Hamilton, Ontario
820 KHZ
CKOC-AM
Armada Communications Ltd.
73 Garfield Avenue
Hamilton, Ontario
1150 KHZ
CKKW-AM
Cap Communications Ltd.
864 King Street West
Kitchener, Ontario
1090 KHZ

CHML-AM
Westcom Group Ltd.
875 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario
900 KHZ
CHYM-AM
Key Radio Ltd
305 King Street West
Kitchener, Ontario
570 KHZ
CFPL-FM
CFPL Broadcasting Ltd.
369 York Street
London, Ontario
95.9 MHZ

Station address and broadcast frequency

CIQM-FM
London Broadcasters Ltd.
Box 1410
London, Ontario
103.1 MHZ

CKSL-AM
London Broadcasters Ltd.
Box 1410
London, Ontario
1290 KHZ

CFGM-AM
Westcom Radio Group
10254 Yonge Street
Richmond Hill, Ontario
640 KHZ

CFTR-AM
Rogers Broadcasting
25 Adelaide Street East
Toronto, Ontario
680 KHZ

CHUM-FM
Chum Ltd.
1331 Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario
104.5 MHZ

CILQ-FM
Westcom Radio Group
2 Bloor Street East
Toronto, Ontario
104.5 MHZ

CKEY-AM
Key Radio Ltd.
1 Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario
590 KHZ

CFGO-AM
Rawlco Communications Ltd.
1575 Carling Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario
1200 KHZ

CHEZ-FM
CHEZ-FM Inc.
126 York Street
Ottawa, Ontario
106.1 MHZ

CKBY-FM
Key Radio Ltd.
Place de Ville
112 Kent Street
Ottawa, Ontario
105.3 MHZ

CJBK-AM
Middlesex Lambton
Communications
743 Wellington Road
London, Ontario
1290 KHZ

CKPR-AM/CJSD-FM
H. F. Dougall Co. Ltd.
87 North Hill Street
Thunder Bay, Ontario
580 KHZ

CFRB-AM
Standard Radio Inc.
2 St. Clair Avenue West
Toronto, Ontario
1010 KHZ

CHFI-FM
Rogers Broadcasting
25 Adelaide Street East
Toronto, Ontario
98.1 MHZ

CHUM-AM
Chum Ltd.
1331 Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario
1050 KHZ

CJCL-AM
Telemedia Comm. Ltd.
40 Helley Street
Toronto, Ontario
1430 KHZ

CKFM-FM
Standard Radio Inc.
24 St. Clair Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
99.9 MHZ

CFRA-AM
CFRA Ltd.
150 Isabella Street
Ottawa, Ontario
580 KHZ

CIWW-AM
Key Radio Ltd.
Place de Ville
112 Kent Street
Ottawa, Ontario
1030 KHZ

CFTF-FM
CJRC-AM
Radio Mutuel Inc.
22 St. Louis Street
Gatineau, Quebec
104.1 MHZ

Station address and broadcast frequency

CHEQ-FM Rideau Broadcasting Box 630 Smith Falls, Ontario 101.1 MHZ	CHOK-AM Middlesex Lambton Communications Box 1070 Sarnia, Ontario 1070 KHZ
CKTY-AM Blue Water Broadcasting Ltd. 1415 London Road Sarnia, Ontario 1110 KHZ 790 KHZ	CKSO-AM Telemedia Communications Ontario Inc. 336 Pine Street Sudbury, Ontario
CHNO-AM CFBR (FR) Midcanada Communications Canada Corp. 295 Victoria St. Sudbury, Ontario 550 KHZ	CFOS-AM Bayshore Broadcasting Corp. 270 Ninth Street East Owen Sound, Ontario 560 KHZ
CJTT-AM Kirkland Lake Broadcasting Box 1058 Whitewood Ave. New Liskeard, Ontario 1230 KHZ	CFPS-AM Bayshore Broadcasting Corp. 270 Ninth Street East Owen Sound, Ontario 1490 KHZ
CFFX-AM Frontenac Broadcasting Co. 479 Counter Street Kingston, Ontario 960 KHZ	CHUC-AM Pineridge Broadcasting P0 Box 520 Cobourg, Ontario 1450 KHZ
CFMP-FM Kawartha Broadcasting Co. Ltd. 1925 Television Road Peterborough, Ontario 101.5 MHZ	CKPR-AM H. F. Dougall Co. Ltd. 87 North Hill Street Thunder Bay, Ontario 580 KHZ
CFYN-AM Telemedia Inc. P0 Box 1050 426 Bruce Street Sault St. Marie, Ontario 1050 KHZ	CHIN-AM 637 College Street Toronto, Ontario 1540 KHZ
CHIN-FM Radio 1540 Limited 637 College Street Toronto, Ontario 100.7 MHZ	CIAM-AM 46 Main Street Cambridge, Ontario N1R 1V4 960 KHZ
CHAS-FM 426 Bruce Street Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario 1050 KHZ	CHIR-FM 270 Donlands Avenue East York, Ontario 104.1 MHZ

Station address and broadcast frequency

CIRV-FM
1087 Dundas Street West
Toronto, Ontario
88.7 MHZ

CPWA-FM
62 Nassau Street
Toronto, Ontario
90.5 MHZ

CHCR-FM
437 Danforth Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
90.1 MHZ

CIAO-AM
50 Kennedy Road South
Brampton, Ontario
L6W 3P3
790 KHZ

CKAR-AM
360 King Street West
Oshawa, Ontario
1350 KHZ

CING-FM
4144 South Service Road
Burlington, Ontario
107.9 MHZ

CJOY-AM
75 Speedvale Road
Guelph, Ontario
1460 KHZ
CJQM-FM
179 Bitonti Crescent
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario
104.0 MHZ

CJMR-AM/CHWO-AM
490 Wyecroft Road
Oakville, Ontario
1190 KHZ
CKCU-FM
1233 Colonel By Drive
Suite 519
University Centre
Ottawa, Ontario
93.1 MHZ

CKQT-FM
360 King Street West
Oshawa, Ontario
84.9 MHZ

CHYR-AM
100 Talbot Street East
Leamington, Ontario
710 KHZ

Station/cost	Exposures per week / time of day	Audience 000
CHAM-AM	2/ Mon-Fri 6 a.m.-10 p.m.	51000
\$1,320	2/ Mon-Fri 10 a.m.-3 p.m.	43600
	2/ Mon-Fri 3 p.m.-7 p.m.	38300
	2/ Mon-Fri 7 a.m.-12 a.m.	15400
	2/ Sat 7 a.m.-7 p.m.	37400
	2/ Sun 7 a.m.-7 p.m.	29400
CHML-AM	4/3/ Mon-Fri 5:30-10 a.m.	2400
\$1,008	4/3/ Mon-Fri 10 a.m.-3 p.m.	1100
	4/3/ Mon-Fri 3 p.m.-8 p.m.	10400
	4/3/ Mon-Sun 8 p.m.-2 a.m.	7700
CKOC-AM4/ \$660	Mon-Sat 5:30 a.m.-10 a.m.	2400
CHYM-AM	3/ Mon-Fri 5:30-10 a.m.	25700
\$810	3/ Mon-Fri 10 a.m.-3 p.m.	20600
	3/ Mon-Fri 3 a.m.-7 p.m.	19000
CKKW-AM	6/ Mon-Fri 5:30-10 a.m.	17900
\$810	6/ Mon-Fri 10 a.m.-3 a.m.	15300
	6/ Sat-Sun 6 a.m.-7 p.m.	12400
CFPL-FM	4/ Mon-Fri 6 a.m.-10 a.m.	35900
\$1,260	4/ Mon-Fri 10 a.m.-3 p.m.	21900
	4/ Mon-Fri 3 p.m.-7 p.m.	22400
CIQM-FM	5/ Mon-Sat 10 a.m.-3 p.m.	3800
\$232	5/ Mon-Fri 3 p.m.-7 p.m.	4000
	2/ Sat 10 a.m.-7 p.m.	1700

Station/cost	Exposures per week / time of day	Audience 000
CJBK-AM \$910	4/ Mon-Fri 6 a.m.-10 a.m. 5/ Mon-Fri 10 a.m.-3 p.m. 4/ Mon-Fri 3 p.m.-7 p.m.	24300 20500 16300
CKSL-AM \$928	8/5/ Mon-Sat 6 a.m.-10 a.m. 8/5/ Mon-Fri 10 a.m.-3 p.m. 3/2/ Sat 10 a.m.-6 p.m.	7900 6700 4000
CKPR-AM CJSD-FM \$1,066	3/ Mon-Sat 6 a.m.-10 a.m. 6/ Mon-Fri 10 a.m.-3 p.m. 2/ Mon-Fri 3 p.m.-7 p.m. 3/ Sun 6 a.m.-7 p.m.	11300 8400 6400 4200
CFGM-AM \$1,725	5/ Mon-Fri 6 a.m.-10 a.m. 5/ Mon-Fri 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 5/ Mon-Fri 2 p.m.-6 p.m.	24800 18900 20400
CFRB-AM \$8,760	12/ Mon-Sat 5:30 a.m.-10 a.m.	142000
CFTR-AM \$3,380	10/ Mon-Fri 6 a.m.-10 a.m. 8/ Mon-Sat 10 a.m.-3 p.m. 8/ Mon-Sat 3 p.m.-8 p.m. 10/ Mon-Sat 8 p.m.-10 a.m.	69000 30900 31900 12300
CHFI-FM \$3,700	5/ Mon-Sun 5 a.m.-10 a.m. 5/ Mon-Sun 10 a.m.-3 p.m. 5/ Mon-Sun 3 p.m.-8 p.m. 5/ Mon-Sun 8 p.m.-1 a.m.	49000 43200 42800 13600
CHUM-FM \$2,580	6/ Sun 6 a.m.-8 p.m.	46700
CHUM-AM \$6,900	6/ Mon-Sat 5:30-10 a.m. 9/ Mon-Sat 10 a.m.-3 p.m. 9/ Mon-Sat 3 p.m.-8 p.m. 6/ Mon-Sat 8 p.m.-1 a.m.	42100 38800 30500 6200
CILQ-FM \$5,175	15/ Mon-Sun 5:30 a.m.-2 a.m.	46700
CJCL-AM \$3,300	5/ Mon-Fri 6 a.m.-10 a.m. 5/ Mon-Fri 10 a.m.-3 p.m. 5/ Mon-Fri 3 p.m.-7 p.m.	51400 45200 47900
CKEY-AM \$1,458	6/ Mon-Fri 5:30-10 a.m. 6/ Mon-Fri 10 a.m.-3 p.m. 6/ Mon-Fri 3 p.m.-7 p.m.	27700 14400 19500
CKFM-FM \$960	3/ Sat 7 a.m.-7 p.m. 3/ Sun 7 a.m.-7 p.m.	32400 25500
CFGO-AM \$400	8/ Mon-Sat 6 a.m.-10 a.m. 2/ Sun 10 a.m.-3 p.m.	9200 8200
CFRA-AM \$1,907	6/ Mon-Sat 5:30 a.m.-10 a.m. 1/ Mon-Fri 10 a.m.-7 p.m. 1/ Mon-Fri 10 a.m.-7 p.m.	49000 40400 13000
CHEZ-FM \$4,400*	12/ Mon-Sun 5:30 a.m.-1 a.m.	10800
(incl. CHEZ, CIWW, CKBY, CHEQ purchased together)		

Station/cost	Exposures per week / time of day	Audience 000
CIWW-AM	4/ Mon-Sat 5:30 a.m.-11 a.m.	8900
*	2/ Mon-Sat 11 a.m.-3 p.m.	5500
	2/ Mon-Sat 3 p.m.-6 p.m.	6000
	4/ Mon-Sat 6 p.m.-12 a.m.	3200
CKBY-FM	4/ Mon-Sun 5:30 a.m.-12 p.m.	20600
*	4/ Mon-Sun 12 p.m.-6 p.m.	16400
	4/ Mon-Sun 6 p.m.-12 a.m.	9500
CHEQ-FM	6/ Mon-Sat 6 a.m.-12 p.m.	2700
*	6/ Mon-Sun 12 p.m.-6 p.m.	2700
CFTF-FM(fr)	2/ Mon-Fri 7 a.m.-10 a.m.	9800
CJRC-AM(fr)	5/ Mon-Fri 19 a.m.-4 p.m.	9100
	2/ Mon-Fri 4-10 p.m.	7200
CHOK-AM	5/ Mon-Fri 6 a.m.-10 a.m.	8900
\$320		
CKTY-AM	4/ Mon-Fri 6 a.m.-10 a.m.	6200
\$700	3/ Mon-Fri 10 a.m.-3 p.m.	7200
	3/ Mon-Fri 3 p.m.-7 p.m.	5800
CKSO-AM	5/ Mon-Fri 7 a.m.-9 a.m.	13100
\$680		
CHNO-AM(fr)	6/ Mon-Sun 6 a.m.-12 a.m.	11700
CFBR-AM(fr)		
\$1,104		
CKEY-Toronto	Dick Bartley's Rock and Roll	
CIWW-Ottawa	Oldies Show	
CHYM-Kitchener	4/ Sat 7 p.m.-12 a.m.	
CJBK-London		
CFFX-Kingston		
CHUC-Cobourg		
CFMP-Peterborough		
CKPR-Thunder Bay		
CFYN-Sault Ste. Marie		
CFOS-Owen Sound		
CJTT-New Liskeard		
CFPS-Port Elgin		
Chinese	3/ Mon 9 a.m.-12 p.m.	* No current
CIAO-AM	3/ Tues 9 a.m.-12 p.m.	data available
\$360		
Chinese	2/ Mon 9-10:30 a.m.	*
CIRV-FM	2/ Wed 9-10:30 a.m.	
\$400	2/ Fri 9-10:30 a.m.	
Chinese	2/ Sun 7-8:30 p.m.	*
CHIN-FM		
\$187		
Chinese	1/ Mon-Fri 8-9 p.m.	*
CHIN-AM		
\$467.50		
Chinese	1/ Sun 11:30-12 p.m.	*
CKCU-FM		
\$22		

Station/cost	Exposures per week / time of day	Audience 000
English (Caribbean) CKAR-AM CKQT-FM \$81	3/ Sat 12 a.m.-6 a.m.	*
English (Caribbean) CKCU-FM \$331.20	2/ Sat 3-5 p.m. 2/ Sun 9-11 p.m. 2/ Thurs 8-9 p.m.	*
English (Caribbean) CIAO-AM \$480	3/ Thurs 1-6 a.m. 3/ Fri 1-6 a.m. 2/ Sat 10-12 a.m.	*
English (Caribbean) CHIN-AM \$340	3/ Sat 11:30-6 a.m. 3/ Thurs 11:30-5 a.m. 2/ Mon 11:30-1 a.m.	*
English (Caribbean) CHIN-FM \$170	2/ Sat 8-9:30 p.m.	*
English (Caribbean) CJMR-FM \$220	2/ Sat 1-2 p.m.	*
English (Caribbean) CING-FM \$60	3/ Sun 9:30 p.m.-12 a.m.	*
Spanish CHIN-AM \$1,122	3/ Mon-Fri 5-8 p.m.	31990 per spot
Spanish CIRV-FM \$560	2/ Sat 3:30-5 p.m. 2/ Mon-Fri 10-12 p.m.	25000 per spot
Portuguese CIAO-AM \$360	2/ Mon 7-9 p.m. 2/ Thurs 7-9 p.m. 2/ Fri 7-9 p.m.	18375 per spot
Portuguese CHIN-FM \$1,326	2/ Sat 10-12:30 p.m. 2/ Mon to Wed 5-7:30 a.m.	29733 per spot
Portuguese CHWO-AM \$880	2/ Mon 8-10 p.m. 2/ Wed 8-10 p.m. 2/ Fri 8-10 p.m. 2/ Sun 6:30-9 p.m.	15233 per spot
Portuguese CPWA-FM \$360	2/ Sun 8-8:05 p.m. 3/ Sun 4-6 p.m. 2/ Sat 10-11 a.m. 2/ Sat 5-6 p.m. 2/ Mon-Fri 8-9 p.m.	33990 per spot
Portuguese CIRV-FM \$400	1/ Mon 7:30-8 p.m. 1/ Wed 7:30-8 p.m. 1/ Fri 7:30-8 p.m. 2/ Wed 9-11 a.m. 2/ Sun 2-3 p.m. 2/ Sat 11-3 p.m.	7000 per spot

Station/cost	Exposures per week / time of day	Audience 000
Portuguese CIAM-AM \$144	2/ Sun 7-8:30 p.m.	*
Italian CJOY-AM \$100	1/ Sun 6:30-7:30 p.m.	*
Italian CJQM-FM \$60	2/ Sun 7-9 a.m.	*
Italian CHAS-FM \$92	2/ Sat 9-11 p.m.	*
Italian CHIN-AM \$2,576	2/ Mon 5-10 a.m. 2/ Tues 5-10 a.m. 2/ Thurs 5-10 a.m. 2/ Mon 3-5 p.m. 2/ Wed 3-5 p.m. 2/ Fri 3-5 p.m.	286500 per spot
Italian CHIN-FM \$1,520	2/ Sat 1-6 a.m. 2/ Mon-Fri 5-8 p.m.	45350 per spot
Italian CIAO-AM \$928	2/ Mon 3-7 p.m. 2/ Thurs 3-7 p.m. 2/ Fri 3-7 p.m. 2/ Sun 1-6 p.m.	9740 per spot
Italian CING-FM \$120	2/ Sun 8-10 p.m.	*
Italian CHWO-AM \$110	1/ Sun 5:30-6:30 p.m.	*
Italian CHYR-AM \$120	2/ Sun 12-3 p.m.	*
Greek CHCR-FM \$840	2/ Mon 7-8 a.m. 2/ Wed 7-8 a.m. 2/ Tues 8-8:30 a.m. 2/ Sat 10-10:30 a.m. 2/ Sun 8-10 a.m. 2/ Sun 6:15-6:30	70818 per spot
Greek CHIR-FM \$400	1/ Mon-Fri 10-11:30 a.m.	21080 per spot
Greek CHIN-FM \$663	2/ Mon 7:30-9 a.m. 2/ Wed 7:30-9 a.m. 2/ Fri 7:30-9 a.m.	52500 per spot
Greek CHIN-AM \$221	2/ Sun 6-8 p.m.	52500 per spot

Station/cost	Exposures per week / time of day	Audience 000
Greek	2/ Mon 6-9 a.m.	3000 per spot
CIRV-FM	2/ Thurs 6-9 a.m.	
\$320	2/ Fri 6-9 a.m.	
	2/ Sun 4-6 p.m.	

402. Mr. Jackson: Would the Minister of Labour provide the following information concerning each radio station which is or has been broadcasting commercials concerning Bill 162 and/or Workers' Compensation reform: (a) a statement of the station's format or some other description of its listening program; (b) the general age group to which the station's format is aimed; (c) the latest BBM statistics or other audience measurement statistics for that station, and (d) any other demographic information concerning that station's listening audience which influenced the decision to broadcast Workers' Compensation commercials on that station, or which influenced the quantity of airtime purchased from that station? [Tabled January 4, 1989]

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Attached is the information requested describing (a) the listening program, (b) the general age group of the audience

and (c) the gross rating points for each station's total airtime purchased.

Item (d) concerns other demographic information connected with the decision to advertise on a specific station; with regard to ethnic broadcasts and ethnic audiences, it should be noted that the Bureau of Broadcast Measurement is unable to track ethnic media habits and this has made GRP ratings nonexistent in the market. The government of Ontario's ethnic advertising agency of record's media purchases are based on ratings available from Ethnic Research Inc. and other syndicated sources. All third-language programming is tailored to serve the need of its specific community, and the stations are generally multiformat in nature, consisting mainly of news talk/magazine shows and music. Generally, the programming is not targeted towards specific age groups but attempts to draw all from within its broadcast range that understand the language of the program.

Station	Format	Age Group Points	Gross Rating
CHAM-AM Hamilton English	country contemporary	25-44	54
CHML-AM Hamilton English	adult contemporary	25-44	48
CKOC-AM Hamilton English	contemporary hit radio	18-44	21
CHYM-AM Kitchener English	adult contemporary	18-24	105
CKKW-AM Kitchener English	adult contemporary	25-44 65+	53
CFPL-FM London English	adult contemporary	18-34	80
CIQM-FM London English	adult contemporary	18-34	15

Station	Format	Age Group Points	Gross Rating
CJBK-AM London English	adult contemporary	18-34	55
CKSL-AM London English	contemporary hit radio	18-34	68
CKPR-AM CJSD-FM Thunder Bay English	adult cont. album rock	25-44 18-34	212
CFGM-AM Toronto English	country contemporary	25-64	19
CFRB-AM Toronto English	multi format	55+	103
CFTR-AM Toronto English	top 40	18-34	33
CHFI-FM Toronto English	adult contemporary	25-44	27
CHUM-FM Toronto English	light rock	18-34	15
CHUM-AM Toronto English	adult contemporary	18-44	55
CILQ-FM Toronto English	album oriented rock	18-34	30
CJCL-AM Toronto English	nostalgia 55+	25-44	51
CKEY-AM Toronto English	adult contemporary	25-44	10
CKFM-FM Toronto English	light rock	25-44	3
CFGO-AM Ottawa English	contemporary hit radio	18-24	13
CFRA-AM Ottawa English	adult contemporary	25-44	63
CHEZ-FM Ottawa English	album oriented rock	18-44	43

Station	Format	Age Group Points	Gross Rating
CIWW-AM Ottawa English	adult contemporary	18-44	33
CKBY-FM Ottawa English	country contemporary	25-49 55-64	44
CFTF-FM	disco music	18-35	55
CJRC-AM Gatineau, Que. French	adult contemporary	18-44	71
CHEQ-FM Smiths Falls English	adult contemporary	25-44	8
CHOK-AM Sarnia English	adult contemporary	25-44	88
CKTY-AM Sarnia English	country contemporary	25-44 55+	126
CKSO-AM Sudbury English	adult contemporary	25-44	106
CHNO-AM CFBR-AM Sudbury French	contemporary hit radio	18-44	100
WESTWOOD ONE RADIO NETWORK English CKEY Toronto CIWW Ottawa CHYM Kitchener CJBK London CFFX Kingston CHUC Cobourg CFMP Peterborough CKPR Thunder Bay CFYN Sault Ste. Marie CFOS Owen Sound CJTT New Liskeard CFPS Port Elgin	adult contemporary	25-49 available	data not
CHIN-AM CHIN-FM Toronto Multilingual	multi-format	various	data not available
CIAM-AM Toronto Multilingual	multi-format	various	data not available
CHAS-FM Sault Ste. Marie Multilingual	multi-format	various	data not available

Station	Format	Age Group Points	Gross Rating
CHIR-FM Toronto Multilingual	multi-format	various	data not available
CIRV-FM Toronto Multilingual	multi-format	various	data not available
CJOY-AM Guelph Multilingual	multi-format	various	data not available
CPWA-FM Toronto Multilingual	multi-format	various	data not available
CJQM-FM Sault Ste. Marie Multilingual	multi-format	various	data not available
CHCR-FM Toronto Greek	multi-format	various	data not available
CJMR-AM CHWO-AM Oakville	multi-format	various	data not available
CIAO-AM Brampton Multilingual	multi-format	various	data not available
CKCU-FM Ottawa Multilingual	multi-format	various	data not available
CKAR-AM CKQT-FM Oshawa Multilingual	multi-format	various	data not available
CING-FM Burlington Multilingual	multi-format	various	data not available
CHYR-AM Leamington Multilingual	multi-format	various	data not available

403. Mr. Jackson: Would the Minister of Labour provide the criteria used by officials of his ministry in determining (a) whether a radio station was suitable for the broadcast of commercials concerning Bill 162 and/or workers' compensation reform and (b) the quantity of air time to be purchased from each station? [Tabled January 4, 1989]

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Station selection rationale: Actual station selection was based on a combination of factors:

(a) Target audience coverage within a given market area and by time period.

(b) Availabilities at time of purchase.

(c) Negotiation of rates and audience reach efficiency.

(d) Each station's contribution to the total campaign. Some stations appeal to select audience segments but in combination, several will combine to maximize coverage against a broad target (i.e., adults 18 and over).

(e) Campaign budget.

For the workers' compensation campaign, special consideration was given to selecting those stations which appeal to a so-called blue-collar target group in order to maximize

reach/frequency levels, by market, with the specified budget.

404. Mr. Jackson: Would the Minister of Labour provide the names and addresses of any individuals (except employees of his ministry), firms or corporations associated with the scripting, creation or production of any radio commercials concerning Bill 162 and/or workers' compensation reform, and state the involvement of each one? [Tabled January 4, 1989]

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The scripting and creation of the ads was done by staff at the Ministry of Labour. The scripts were read to air by the announcers of the stations that broadcast them. Ethnic Ad Inc., the government of Ontario's ethnic advertising agency of record, provided the services of transcreating the English-language radio ad copy to the third languages and booking the air time for the ministry.

405. Mr. Jackson: Would the Minister of Labour provide details of all moneys paid to those individuals (except employees of his ministry), firms and corporations associated with the scripting, creation or production of any radio commercials concerning Bill 162 and/or workers' compensation reform? [Tabled January 4, 1989]

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The government of Ontario's ethnic advertising agency of record, Ethnic Ad Inc., was paid \$9,087.09 for transcreating the English radio script to the ethnic languages.

406. Mr. Jackson: Would the Minister of Labour provide details of all costs of production (except distribution costs) of the English-language pamphlet entitled *Information-Reforming Workers' Compensation in Ontario*? [Tabled January 4, 1989]

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The production and printing costs for the English-language brochure entitled *Information-Reforming Workers' Compensation in Ontario* are: production, \$2,025.12; and printing, \$14,400.

407. Mr. Jackson: Would the Minister of Labour provide details of all costs of production (except distribution costs) of the French, Portuguese, Italian, Greek, Spanish and Chinese versions of the pamphlet *Information-Reforming Workers' Compensation in Ontario*? [Tabled January 4, 1989]

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The production and printing costs of the French, Portuguese, Italian, Greek, Spanish and Chinese are: production, \$12,980.18; and printing, \$16,234.

408. Mr. Jackson: Would the Minister of Labour provide the names and addresses of any individuals (except employees of his ministry), firms or corporations associated with the design, creation or production of the English-language pamphlet entitled *Information-Reforming Workers' Compensation in Ontario*, and state the involvement of each one? [Tabled January 4, 1989]

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Remarkable Communications Ltd., 89 Bloor Street West, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 1M1. Remarkable Communications Ltd. provided writing and editing services for the development of the English-language brochure.

Ethnic Ad Inc., Renaissance Court, 162 Cumberland Street, Suite 310, Toronto, Ontario, M5R 1A8. Ethnic Ad designed the brochure and provided the ministry with camera-ready material in all the languages.

Arthurs-Jones Lithographing Ltd., 1060 Tristar Drive, Mississauga, Ontario, L5T 1H9. Arthurs-Jones printed the brochures, all languages.

409. Mr. Jackson: Would the Minister of Labour provide details of all moneys paid to those individuals (except employees of his ministry), firms or corporations associated with the design, creation or production of the English-language pamphlet entitled *Information-Reforming Workers' Compensation in Ontario*? [Tabled January 4, 1989]

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Remarkable Communications Ltd. provided writing and editing services for the development of the English-language brochure. The fee for service was \$2,100.

Ethnic Ad Inc., the government ethnic agency of record, was paid \$2,082 for the design and creation of the English-language brochure artwork.

Arthurs-Jones Lithographing Ltd. was paid \$14,400 for printing the English-language brochure.

410. Mr. Jackson: Would the Minister of Labour provide the names and addresses of any individuals (except employees of his ministry), firms or corporations associated with the design, creation or production of the Portuguese, Spanish, Italian, Chinese, French and Greek versions of the pamphlet *Information-Reforming Workers' Compensation in Ontario*? [Tabled January 4, 1989]

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Ethnic Ad. Inc., Renaissance Court, 162 Cumberland Street, Suite 310,

Toronto, Ontario, M5R 3N5. Ethnic Ad Inc. transcreated the English-language brochure copy to Italian, French, Portuguese, Spanish, Chinese and Greek. They provided creative service by preparing final artwork for these languages in addition to the English language.

Arthurs-Jones Lithographing Ltd., 1060 Tristar Drive, Mississauga, Ontario, L5T 1H9. Arthurs-Jones Lithographing Ltd. printed the Italian, French, Portuguese, Spanish, Chinese and Greek brochures in addition to the English.

411. Mr. Jackson: Would the Minister of Labour provide details of all moneys paid to those individuals (except employees of his ministry), firms or corporations associated with the design, creation or production of the French, Portuguese, Italian, Greek, Spanish and Chinese versions of the pamphlet Information-Reforming Workers' Compensation in Ontario? [Tabled January 4, 1989]

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Ethnic Ad. Inc., the government of Ontario's ethnic advertising agency of record, was paid \$12,980 for the services it provided for the design, creation and production of the Italian, French, Portuguese, Spanish, Chinese and Greek-language versions of the brochure entitled Information-Reforming Workers' Compensation in Ontario.

Arthurs-Jones Lithographing Ltd. was paid \$16,234 for printing the Italian, French, Portuguese, Spanish, Chinese and Greek-language versions of the brochure entitled Information-Reforming Workers' Compensation in Ontario.

412. Mr. Jackson: Would the Minister of Labour state how many English-language pamphlets entitled Information-Reforming Workers' Compensation in Ontario have been produced by his ministry? [Tabled January 4, 1989]

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The ministry has produced 144,000 English-language brochures entitled Information-Reforming Workers' Compensation in Ontario.

413. Mr. Jackson: Would the Minister of Labour state how many French-language versions of the pamphlet Information-Reforming Workers' Compensation in Ontario have been produced by his ministry? [Tabled January 4, 1989]

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The ministry has produced one French-language version of the English-language brochure entitled Information-Reforming Workers' Compensation in Ontario. Twelve thousand copies have been produced.

414. Mr. Jackson: Would the Minister of Labour state how many Greek-language versions of the pamphlet Information-Reforming Workers' Compensation in Ontario have been produced by his ministry? [Tabled January 4, 1989]

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The ministry has produced one Greek-language version of the English-language brochure entitled Information-Reforming Workers' Compensation in Ontario. Eighteen thousand copies have been produced.

415. Mr. Jackson: Would the Minister of Labour state how many Chinese-language versions of the pamphlet Information-Reforming Workers' Compensation in Ontario have been produced by his ministry? [Tabled January 4, 1989]

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The ministry has produced one Chinese-language version of the English-language brochure entitled Information-Reforming Workers' Compensation in Ontario. Twenty-two thousand copies have been produced.

416. Mr. Jackson: Would the Minister of Labour state how many Italian-language versions of the pamphlet Information-Reforming Workers' Compensation in Ontario have been produced by his ministry? [Tabled January 4, 1989]

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The ministry has produced one Italian-language version of the English-language brochure entitled Information-Reforming Workers' Compensation in Ontario. Sixty-five thousand copies have been produced.

417. Mr. Jackson: Would the Minister of Labour state how many Portuguese-language versions of the pamphlet Information-Reforming Workers' Compensation in Ontario have been produced by his ministry? [Tabled January 4, 1989]

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The ministry has produced one Portuguese-language version of the English-language brochure entitled Information-Reforming Workers' Compensation in Ontario. Thirty-one thousand copies have been produced.

418. Mr. Jackson: Would the Minister of Labour state how many Spanish-language versions of the pamphlet Information-Reforming Workers' Compensation in Ontario have been produced by his ministry? [Tabled January 4, 1989]

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The ministry has produced one Spanish-language version of the English-language brochure entitled Information-

Reforming Workers' Compensation in Ontario. Twelve thousand copies have been produced.

419. Mr. Jackson: Would the Minister of Labour explain (if necessary, by providing demographic information on workers' compensation claimants and/or recipients) the choice of each of Italian, Greek, Chinese, Spanish and Portuguese as languages of translation for the pamphlet Information-Reforming Workers' Compensation in Ontario? [Tabled January 4, 1989]

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Language selection rationale: The six languages selected are in accordance with the Workers' Compensation Board's records of customary claimants' language needs.

420. Mr. Jackson: Would the Minister of Labour provide details of the distribution of the English-language version of the pamphlet Information-Reforming Workers' Compensation in Ontario, including: (a) for each quantity in excess of 10, the name and address of each recipient and the quantity delivered thereto; (b) the method of delivery to each recipient; and (c) the cost of delivery to each recipient? [Tabled January 4, 1989]

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Attached is a summary of the English brochure distribution, 10 copies or more.

Recipient	Quantity/Method	Cost
Contrast 168 Oakwood Avenue, Toronto, Ontario	5,000—to be inserted into newspaper, for the Caribbean audience	\$500/10 cents a copy
Equality News 65 Hutcherson Square Scarborough, Ontario, M1B 1C5	5,000—to be inserted into newspaper, for the Caribbean audience	\$500/10 cents a copy
Members of provincial parliament	Internal government mail (under 10 approx.)	Not applicable
Ministry of Labour district offices	Priority Post (approx. 200)	\$49.50/\$1.65 per office
Office of the worker adviser	Internal government mail (approx. 100)	Not applicable
Office of the employer adviser	Internal government mail (approx. 100)	Not applicable
Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology investment and regional service branch, 5th floor 900 Bay Street Toronto, Ontario	Internal government mail (approx. 100)	Not applicable
Ministry of Health, human resources br. 11th floor, 80 Grosvenor Street Toronto, Ontario	Internal government mail (approx. 250)	Not applicable
Ministry of Community and Social Services 7th floor 80 Grosvenor Street Toronto, Ontario	Internal government mail (approx. 200)	Not applicable
The Workers' Compensation Board 2 Bloor Street East Toronto, Ontario	Picked up (10,500)	Not applicable

421. Mr. Jackson: Would the Minister of Labour provide details of the distribution of the French, Greek, Italian, Spanish, Chinese and

Portuguese versions of the pamphlet Information-Reforming Workers' Compensation in Ontario, including: (a) for each quantity in excess of 10,

the name and address of each recipient and the quantities (broken down by language) delivered thereto; (b) the method of delivery to each recipient; and (c) the cost of delivery to each recipient? [Tabled January 4, 1989]

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Quantities of the ethnic-language brochures were sent to ethnic community newspapers and distributed as inserts. Outlined below are the details.

Publication	Quantity	Date	Cost
<i>Italian</i>			
Corriere Canadese	20,000	12/7/88	\$1,080.00/5 cents a copy
Corriere Illustrato 700 Caledonia Road North York, Ontario M6B 4H9	20,000	12/9/88	\$1,080.00/5 cents a copy
La Gazette 571 Erie Street East Windsor, Ontario M9A 3X8	5,000	12/9/88	\$500.00/10 cents a copy
<i>Portuguese</i>			
Novo Mundo 803 Dundas Street West Toronto, Ontario	5,000	12/7/88	\$270.00/5 cents a copy
Voice of Portugal 180 Queen Street West Brampton, Ontario	20,000	12/12/88	\$1,728.00/9 cents a copy
<i>Greek</i>			
New World 59 Cambridge Avenue Toronto, Ontario	10,000	12/12/88	\$445.50/4 cents a copy
Danforth Village c/o Ethnic Ad Inc. Toronto, Ontario	5,000	12/9/88	\$400.00/8 cents a copy
<i>Spanish</i>			
El Popular 2413 Dundas Street West Toronto, Ontario	6,500	12/7/88	\$561.20/9 cents a copy
Grafico 2170 Bronsgrove Road Unit #51 Mississauga, Ontario	2,500	01/2/89	\$270.00/11 cents a copy
La Flama 1887 Eglinton Avenue West Toronto, Ontario	1,000	12/12/88	\$108.00/10 cents a copy
<i>Chinese</i>			
Chinese Express 352 Spadina Avenue 2nd floor Toronto, Ontario	6,000	12/7/88	\$486.00/8 cents a copy
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Capital Chinese 695 Somerset Street West Ottawa, Ontario	2,000	01/1/89	\$216.00/11 cents a copy
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<i>French</i> Représentant(e)s des conseils régionaux / The French Canadian Association of Ontario (all 78 chapters and affiliated associations as listed in Nov. 1988 Pages vertes de l'ACFO)	468	02/10/89	\$59.28 postage

INTERIM ANSWERS

432. Mr. Reville: Hon. Mr. Scott—The ministry requires additional time to prepare a response. A response will be submitted on or about March 6, 1989.

433 to 436. Mr. Pollock: Hon. Mr. Kerrio—The final response of the ministry to these questions will be tabled on or about March 30, 1989.

437. Mr. McCague: Hon. Mr. Eakins—The time required to answer this question is going to be longer than the 10 days allowed. The answer should be available on or about February 28, 1989.

RESPONSE TO PETITION

YORK REGION LAND DEVELOPMENT

Sessional paper P-41, re land development.

Hon. Mr. Eakins: This government is com-

mitted to a municipal planning process that is effectively and fairly used to manage growth and development.

The pressures for growth in York region are expected to continue. This government has recently requested regional council to place a priority on the preparation and adoption of a long-range official plan to guide growth in the region. This government is also conducting a management review of land use planning, development and servicing in Richmond Hill. The results will be used to improve the administration of planning and development in York region and across the province.

In addition, an OPP investigation is currently being conducted in Richmond Hill and Markham in response to the allegations relating to land dealings. It is appropriate to await the results of the investigation before making a final decision on the necessity for a public inquiry.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

- Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
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 Breagh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)
Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health (Orillia L)
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
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 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)
Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)
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 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)
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 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)
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 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)
Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L)
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 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)
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 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)
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 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)
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 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)
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 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)
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 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)
Mancini, Hon. Remo, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)
 Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)
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 McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)
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 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)
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 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)

Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier,
 Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Eco-
 nomics and Minister of Financial Institutions
 (Brant-Haldimand L)

Oddie Munro, Hon. Lily, Minister of Culture
 and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)

Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)

O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and
 Recreation (Quinte L)

O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)

Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)

Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government
 Services (Ottawa Centre L)
 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)

Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and Presi-
 dent of the Council and Minister of Inter-
 governmental Affairs (London Centre L)
 Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)

Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship
 (Scarborough-Agincourt L)

Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of
 the Committees of the Whole House (Prescott
 and Russell L)

Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)

Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)

Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)

Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)

Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)

Rae, Bob (York South NDP)

Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional
 Services (Timiskaming L)

Ray, Michael C., Deputy Chairman of the
 Committees of the Whole House (Windsor-
 Walkerville L)

Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)

Reycraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)

Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and
 Food (Huron L)

Roberts, Marietta L. D. (Elgin L)

Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)

Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)

Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General
 (St. George-St. David L)

Smith, David W. (Lambton L)

Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General
 (London South L)

Sola, John (Mississauga East L)

Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour
 (York Centre L)

South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)

Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)

Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)

Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)

Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community
 and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)

Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)

Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)

Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glen-
 garry PC)

Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of
 Education (Wentworth North L)

Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)

Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio
 (Dufferin-Peel L)

Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)

Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy
 (Fort York L)

Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and
 Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)

*The alphabetical list of members appears in
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Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 34th Parliament
Wednesday, February 22, 1989



Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Wednesday, February 22, 1989

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

TRANSIT SERVICES

Ms. Bryden: I would like to draw to the attention of the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Fulton) some serious problems affecting the present GO Transit service bringing commuters into downtown Toronto.

The Georgetown line is one example. The GO train is frequently five to 10 minutes late getting into the second station, Brampton, which results in a delay getting into Union Station. This frequently makes many downtown workers late for work. When they complain to GO Transit, they all get the same answer and are urged to write to GO Transit. They never get a response from GO Transit to these letters.

They know that GO Transit rents the rail line from the Canadian National Railway; however, they feel that the minister and GO Transit should make CN and their employees more aware that commuters' jobs are in jeopardy if GO trains do not get priority on the rail lines into Union Station in rush hours. The minister may have to renegotiate the agreement with CN to ensure this priority.

There is also a problem with the GO bus from Burlington to Hamilton. I have complaints that the bus driver will not wait even a few minutes for the train to arrive, but just drives off at his scheduled time leaving passengers to wait for up to 30 minutes for another bus. This means a double load of passengers for the next bus.

Will the minister investigate these complaints, in view of his recent speech to the Board of Trade of Metropolitan Toronto about his keen interest in good commuter service by GO Transit?

LANDFILL SITE

Mr. Cousens: It is time that this no-walls, no-barriers Liberal government faced up to the facts. In reality, it is a closed-door, pass-the-buck administration.

The latest example of the Liberals' unwillingness to deal with the people of Ontario openly and truthfully is the refusal of the Minister of

Municipal Affairs (Mr. Eakins) to meet with the citizens of the town of Vaughan. These citizens are distressed about the upcoming hearings for the expansion of the Keele Valley landfill site, which is right in the middle of their municipality. They were to meet with the minister today to discuss their concerns, but at the last minute he cancelled the meeting.

We have a waste management crisis in this province. It is incumbent upon all ministers of the crown to ensure that any related issues falling within their jurisdictions are dealt with in the most open and expeditious manner.

The Minister of Municipal Affairs' refusal to meet with the people of Vaughan is another example of the province's hands-off attitude towards the waste management crisis. Even the appointment of Gardner Church to head the greater Toronto authority is nothing but smoke and mirrors. This authority has promised little in the way of concrete action. Mr. Church has made it clear that his role is merely one of consultation and co-ordination. He will not be offering any provincial resources to aid in solving the waste management crisis we are facing in Ontario today.

It is clear that this no-walls, no-barriers rhetoric is just that, full of empty promises.

ONTARIO HERITAGE WEEK

Mr. Dietsch: I would like to take this opportunity to bring to the attention of members of this House a special Ontario Heritage Week celebration which I attended in my riding last night. The 26th Girl Guide unit of St. Catharines and the Pathfinders met at the Burleigh Hill school in honour of heritage week. Here they put together a history-in-the-making box to be displayed at the St. Catharines Historical Museum. The box contained letters the girls addressed to their grandchildren, pictures of people and places making the news today, as well as numerous other items which depict what life is like in 1989.

A representative from the St. Catharines museum was present to speak to the guides about early settlers in the area and brought period costumes for the girls to try on to get a feeling of

what was involved with the traditional dress at that time.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend Shiela Morra, leader of the 26th Girl Guide unit, and her assistant, Wanda Derda; Jean Westlake, leader of the Pathfinders; Girl Guide Commissioner Maureen McGeorge, and Brigitta Carr from the St. Catharines museum for their planning and participation in such an event, which serves to remind and enlighten these young girls what our heritage means to us, how we can preserve it and, most important, the understanding that it is an integral part of our lives.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Miss Martel: There is little doubt that the public response to hearings on Bill 162 has been overwhelming. Last week the clerk of the standing committee on resources development reported that she had received 612 requests for standing before the committee. Under the original hearings schedule, that means only about 340 groups would be heard. Each of these will be limited to 20- and 30-minute presentations.

Given that information and given the fact that the committee will already have to reschedule the hearings as the House continues to sit, I moved the following motion last Wednesday: first, that all groups wishing to be heard should be accommodated, and second, that the hearings should take place when the House was not in session, as was originally planned.

The six Liberal members on that committee voted against that motion. In spite of the fact that the bill would dramatically affect injured workers in this province, the Liberals refused to guarantee that everyone would be heard.

On Monday my colleague the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie) questioned the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara) on this matter. The minister replied, "If my friend the member for Hamilton East can show me one occasion in this House when a standing committee...decided to have hearings until every single deputation was heard, then I will be terribly surprised."

The minister should be terribly surprised and embarrassed. He was here in 1985 when the standing committee on social development held hearings on Bill 30. Everyone was heard. Over 900 presentations were made before the committee and there was not a 20- or 30-minute deadline. If it was good enough for the government to hear everyone in 1985, then it should be good enough now. Everyone should be heard on Bill 162.

TORONTO AREA TRANSPORTATION

Mr. Cousens: This world-class metropolis is in the grip of a world-class traffic crisis and, frankly, there is little hope in sight. During this week's conference of the Ontario Good Roads Association, the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Fulton) finally admitted that the traffic problem of Metro Toronto is an area of major concern.

The stress of congestion is taking an enormous toll on productivity and the quality of family life. A study commissioned by the minister, released in the fall of 1987, states that travelling on congestion-free highways is a prime concern for Ontario motorists.

Over the past 25 years, the growth in daily trips on roads in the greater Metro area has increased some 150 per cent. Travel in and out of Metro often takes two to three times longer than several years ago. Desperately needed road repairs and reconstruction are needed for many of our arterial routes. Yet what has been the minister's answer to these concerns? "We have no new money for roads."

The Liberal member for Ottawa West (Mr. Chiarelli) was bragging in the Ottawa Citizen and saying that Ottawa-Carleton will receive road grants and transit subsidies worth \$312 per person this fiscal year, and Metro Toronto is receiving \$140 per person.

The road allocations for greater Metro Toronto are not enough to do it and yet the Ottawa MPPs are bragging about what they are getting there. There has to be some inequity going on here, and it is time the minister started putting money where it really counts.

1340

ACADEMIC FREEDOM

Mr. McGuinty: The current controversy surrounding the theory regarding oriental, white and black genetic differences put forth by University of Western Ontario psychologist Professor Rushton has raised questions not only in the academic community but also in the community at large.

Politicians have been admonished, in fact chastised, for deigning to comment and indeed have been warned by academics to refrain from entering the debate, perhaps in the interest of maintaining universities' freedom from political pressure.

Others have asked for government intervention, but perhaps politicians may be permitted to state some of the questions which call for clarification by the academic community.

There are questions with regard to the following: academic freedom and tenure and their attendant rights and responsibilities; evaluation of research, support sources and methods, and the empirical credibility of resulting theories; and criticism of those outside universities by goings-on within.

The university is a social institution with societal responsibilities. Questions of this kind should be appropriately answered by the academic community. The community at large looks with hopeful expectancy for clarification at the forthcoming meeting on March 2 of the senate committee at the University of Western Ontario, at which there will be put forth a motion to reaffirm the university's commitment "to academic freedom and its attendant rights and responsibilities."

STANDARDIZED SCHOOL TESTS

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I am perturbed that there is no statement forthcoming in the House today from the Minister of Education (Mr. Ward) about this new policy on standardized tests which is reported in the Toronto Star today.

The minister seems to be moving away from a position which said that these would be used only to evaluate the system, and he is now saying that these tests will be used to effectively look at remediation for individual students of grade schools in Ontario—a major change of policy of which we have heard nothing more than what has already been said in the Star. I, for one, would like to have some clarification as to whether the minister has changed his mind on this point.

ORAL QUESTIONS

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Mr. B. Rae: I would like to address a question to the Minister of Labour. Yesterday, in answer to some requests, the minister tabled what I think most of us would feel is probably the most extensive media list of partisan propaganda ever put out by a cabinet minister in newspaper and radio ads across the province, amounting to a little less than \$150,000, with respect to a partisan government bill which is not yet even law in this province. That is nearly \$150,000 of partisan Liberal Party propaganda paid for by the taxpayers of this province with regard to a bill on workers' compensation which is not yet even law.

I wonder if the minister can explain to this House why he would have spent taxpayers' dollars on partisan Liberal Party propaganda at a

time when that bill is not yet even the law of the land.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Just to advise the Leader of the Opposition, the expenditure of some \$150,000 was used to create brochures that set out the details of Bill 162 and those brochures were made available to every single member of this House to use in response to inquiries arising from Bill 162.

As the member can well imagine, the Ministry of Labour received several hundred requests for information on Bill 162. We found it more expeditious to have a simple, standardized information sheet that was sent out to those who inquired about the bill, setting out the details of the bill and how it would change the workers' compensation system.

Mr. B. Rae: In addition to the brochures, there was the most extensive campaign on radio ever launched by a government prior to a bill becoming law. I cannot remember a time, save for when Trudeau brought in the Constitution back in 1980, when a government has decided to take upon itself a propaganda campaign on the airwaves in advance of that bill's even becoming law and in advance of its being approved in the Legislature.

I would like to ask the minister a second question: I have here a pretty picture of the minister, if that is not a contradiction in terms. It appears under a headline in Italian about Bill 162. There is a complete discussion of the positive effects of Bill 162, and it is in a publication that is published by the Workers' Compensation Board.

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. B. Rae: I cannot guess at the number of times the minister has stated in this House that the Workers' Compensation Board is at arm's length from him, that he is not responsible for all the screwups in the WCB, that he is not responsible for all the workers who get shafted by the WCB—

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. B. Rae: In addition to his own partisan advertisements, which he has yet to explain satisfactorily to the House, I wonder if the minister can tell us why the Workers' Compensation Board is now being recruited into this partisan Liberal Party campaign in an effort to sell Bill 162.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I will pass on the comments about the pretty picture, although I have not seen it.

As for the rest of the preamble to my friend's question, it is just absolute and patent nonsense.

With respect to the information clip that was on the radio, he describes it as an extensive campaign. The radio clip went something like this: "The government of Ontario is introducing amendments to the Workers' Compensation Act. If you would like information on this act, you may get that information by writing to the following address." If that is an extensive advertising campaign, I will eat the picture that my friend over there is talking about.

I really cannot comment on the article published in a document from the Workers' Compensation Board. I have not seen it, I do not know who wrote it and I do not know what it says.

Mr. B. Rae: Just so the minister knows, because he has not told the House completely accurately what is in the radio ad, it says, "The Ontario government has made proposals in the Legislature to change workers' compensation so that help for injured workers will be more fair and effective."

Hon. Mr. Peterson: That is true.

Mr. B. Rae: The Premier says it is true; I say it is not true. Why the hell should taxpayers be paying to listen to the Premier's personal point of view with respect to workers' compensation? Why should we be paying for Liberal Party propaganda on workers' compensation?

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Stuff it down his throat.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Does the Leader of the Opposition have a final supplementary?

Mr. B. Rae: By way of final supplementary, can the minister explain why it is that when his government and the taxpayers of the province are financing Liberal Party propaganda, asking workers to get hold of the act and make their views known—which was the case for the campaign that took place in the month of December—can the minister explain to me why it is that literally hundreds—not just a few but hundreds—of injured workers, injured workers' groups, trade unions and representatives of working people across this province are being told by the Liberal majority on the standing committee on resources development that there is no room for them at the hearing table, that there is no time or space for them? If it is good enough for—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: To go back to the radio ads for a minute, if my memory serves me well, I think the total budget for radio announcements about the availability of the pamphlet describing

the bill was in the neighbourhood of some \$25,000 or \$30,000. I stand to be corrected.

1350

Mr. Pouliot: More like \$59,000.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: My friend the member for Lake Nipigon says \$59,000. That, if I recall the figures correctly, is a fraction of the mailing costs that come out of the office of the Leader of the Opposition, also paid for by the taxpayers of this province. I do not think that either expenditure is objectionable.

Mr. Wildman: What about yours?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: You want us to pay for radio ads.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Hold on a second, I say to my friend the member for Scarborough West. Just to make a point about—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Mr. Speaker, I do not think they want to hear the answer, but I am going to try anyway.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Just to make a point about the hearings, my understanding is that the committee is still committed to six weeks of public hearings in virtually every corner of the province.

My understanding is that the view of the Liberal members is that every step should be taken to accommodate as many groups as possible that want to have an opportunity to make submissions before the committee, and that the committee, obviously, will pay attention to every written brief that is submitted.

I understand that suggestions have been made that the committee consider sitting into the evening and on Friday as well and that the purpose that the Liberal members have on that committee is to accommodate as many groups as possible during those six weeks of hearings. I certainly support that position of the committee.

Mr. Speaker: New question. The Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. B. Rae: If it is good enough for doctors on extra billing, to listen to them, why don't you listen to workers?

Mr. Speaker: Order. Have you a new question?

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Mr. B. Rae: This is a question to the Premier. I noticed with interest yesterday the Premier's comments to the press. He was not here

yesterday, but he was commenting to the press on the subject of auto insurance.

I wonder if the Premier can tell us why it is that in some provinces, which have similar requirements with respect to a lack of discrimination with regard to age, those same provinces are still able to offer a discount to good drivers. The Premier will know that the vast majority of seniors fall into that category. Why could he not have pushed for and why could not the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board have in place a system which would ensure that drivers with a clean driving record for a period of time would indeed have a discount the way seniors up until now have had a discount?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I think the Minister of Financial Institutions (Mr. Elston) can help my friend with that question.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. B. Rae: I ask questions and then you don't answer them.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Well, ask decent questions.

Mr. B. Rae: But you want to be in charge of that.

Hon. Mr. Scott: Somebody has to.

Mr. Breaugh: Good to see you back.

Hon. Mr. Scott: It is not unpleasant to be here.

Mr. Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I do not think there is any point answering the question until they are finished chatting.

Hon. Mr. Scott: I like a real jury.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: How was it in the stocks?

Mr. Speaker: I guess we will wait, once again, until the Attorney General and other members get finished.

Hon. Mr. Scott: Sorry, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The honourable gentleman asked the question about whether or not there are advantages to having a good driver's record under the system announced by the board. I can tell the honourable gentleman, in fact, that is the case. He has picked on one of the essential parts of the class plan and its items, which is an essential part of a fairness across the system as it applies rates.

He will know that there will be a particular application of surcharges to those people who have experienced convictions or claims over the

course of their driving careers, and that, I think, is the way that a lot of people would like it to be; that is, that the bad drivers will pay higher rates. That is what is happening as we look at the introduction of a new system.

The honourable gentleman would like the people of the province to know, I am sure, that this is the first time, in North American experience anyway and perhaps around the world, that we have introduced simultaneously a rate-setting system together with a new class plan system, which accomplishes two things. First, it takes the mystery out of what components are used by companies to put together rates; and second, it sets a fairness with respect to risk as it goes from one territory to the other around the province.

Mr. B. Rae: What the government has accomplished is that people who were paying \$800 a year one month are going to be paying \$900 a year the next month. That is the miracle the government has wrought.

I want to go back to the question I asked the Premier (Mr. Peterson), because I do not think the minister heard the question. He certainly was not answering the question I put to the Premier. There are provinces which have a nondiscriminatory rule with respect to age. Those same provinces also have discounts, not average rates but specific discounts, for drivers who have had no convictions over a given period of time.

Why was that not put forward by the minister to the board as a policy statement by this government? He must have known that it would specifically benefit seniors and others who will be hurt by increases, thanks to the Liberal government's actions with regard to insurance.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. B. Rae: Why is he not urging the board to put it in place now? He can issue a policy statement this afternoon asking the board to—

Mr. Speaker: Order. You have already asked two questions. Minister.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The issue of implementation of something like what is called the bonus-malus system of insurance coverage is, of course, very interesting to us as a government. It is something that we have followed with a great deal of interest, and the issue of long-time accident- and claim-free driving records is extremely interesting to us as we review the opportunities that are available to us.

I can tell the honourable gentleman that, from my point of view, we have the essential features of the beginnings of such a bonus-type system or

bonus-malus system in the way the plan is structured now, by ensuring that people who are bad drivers after the initial adjustment occurs will suffer surcharges on the basis of bad driving experience. That, I think, is important for everybody in the province to understand. In fact, I have received comments from around the province which really indicate support for the idea of surcharging those people who do have bad records.

I would think that while the honourable gentleman was on his feet and saying that some premiums may go from \$800 to \$900 per year, he would have noted that, from the examples given in the report that was filed and put forward in the public forum by the board, some people will see \$4,000 yearly premiums reduced to around \$2,500. He does not want to say that—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Elston: —because he does not want to indicate that there is fairness in the system.

Mr. B. Rae: If you are a senior now in Scarborough and you have a senior citizens' discount, your rate is discounted 20 per cent from what would be the normal rate, the benchmark rate now. The board has proposed increases which would take that figure up at least 18 per cent from that average rate. The minister will surely understand that what, in effect, the board is proposing for that senior is a net increase of somewhere between 40 per cent and 50 per cent, depending on where he fits in.

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. B. Rae: That is a very substantial increase for that particular senior. That rate is coming down the pipe this next couple of weeks. Can the minister tell us why he would not today issue a policy statement, which he is allowed to do under the legislation, and ask the board to reopen its rate-setting exercise with respect to the question of people who are driving—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Minister.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I want to thank the honourable gentleman for his example in Scarborough and I would like to commend to him the reading of the balance of the report, which talks about the decreases that will occur for the same senior consumer in some other places, like Thunder Bay and Timmins, areas that lie outside the area he talked about.

Mr. B. Rae: They won't get a decrease if they've had a discount.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The fellow who just asked the question and who continues to chirp away on the other side of the House has refused to

acknowledge the fact that the implementation of the new plan classification system will mean that the basic level of premiums being charged will in fact decrease for a good number of people outside the area of Metropolitan Toronto.

While I acknowledge that there will be some increases and some adjustment upwards in some centres in Metropolitan Toronto, it is not without the advantages I have indicated earlier by decreasing for those others in the province.

1400

The other thing that the honourable gentleman should know is that not all seniors participate in discount-type insurance programs. He should acknowledge that as well as he tries to lead everybody to believe that every senior in the province will suffer high increases. It is not so and he should not try to make it so.

Mr. Runciman: I remind members that all parties in this House knew that seniors were going to get it in the neck 18 months ago.

Mr. Mackenzie: Why didn't you say something then?

Mr. Runciman: I did.

My question is for the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs. Last week, George Whitcombe, a 74-year-old senior living in Hamilton, phoned the minister's office to inquire about how his auto insurance premium may be affected by the new risk classification system being implemented by the government. Mr. Whitcombe was told by someone in the minister's office, quite bluntly I might add, that he should hang up and call the Minister of Financial Institutions.

The minister said yesterday, "I am working very closely with my colleague the Minister of Financial Institutions to bring to him the concerns that are brought forward to me by seniors as individuals and by seniors' groups across the province, so we can have an opportunity to discuss those actual rates."

Mr. Speaker: The question?

Mr. Runciman: Clearly, the message being sent to seniors by the minister's response is: "Don't call me. Call someone else. I'm too busy."

Mr. Speaker: The question?

Mr. Runciman: My question is: If seniors cannot get the minister even to talk to them, let alone acknowledge the existence of an auto insurance problem, just who can they turn to?

Hon. Mrs. Wilson: I think it would be very valuable for the member opposite, as well as

other members in the House, to know that the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board has set up a hotline so that seniors and other people who are interested in getting the facts may phone and get those facts very quickly from people with the technical knowledge to give that information quickly.

Mr. Runciman: The gentleman I mentioned earlier, George Whitcombe, has been notified by his insurance company that his rates will rise by some 13.5 per cent, effective March 1, 1989. He has no claims or convictions and drives an average of 50 miles per month.

Yesterday, the minister suggested to seniors that they ignore the rates being published in the media because they are based on speculation. In the case of Mr. Whitcombe, so much for speculation. This 74-year-old, fixed-income senior will see his rates rise by nearly double the benchmark that her government talks about so lovingly. In effect, his rates will rise almost in step with taxicab rates, cars that are driven 24 hours a day, not 50 miles per month.

Does the minister think it is fair that seniors will be made to pay the same rate increases being slapped on taxicabs and, if not, what steps does she plan to take to address the situation?

Hon. Mrs. Wilson: I think it important that the member opposite should know that any figures that are being discussed today are merely speculation. The 170 insurance companies across the province will file their formulas with the auto insurance board by March 15. The insurance board will then review those formulas to determine that they fit the criteria of the new legislation. The rates will then be published following that period of time.

Many seniors across the province will receive decreases in their insurance. There will be adjustments, particularly in large urban centres, which will involve some increases to seniors. The actual figures we will not know until later in the year.

My suggestion to seniors is to wait until the facts come out. There will be adjustments; seniors will be part of those adjustments. I believe that we can work very fairly with the groups to be sure that they do have the facts and that they are able to inform their members of those.

Mr. Runciman: This is the minister's first real test and, regrettably, she has failed it badly.

Yesterday, the minister said that I was trying to alarm seniors over high insurance rate increases, that my comments were pure speculation. She has said it again today.

During a television interview this past weekend, the chairman of the auto insurance board, John Kruger, said: "A senior in Scarborough will pay about 18 per cent more. That's the price one pays for eliminating age," and went on to express concern about people on fixed incomes. So much for speculation.

The chairman of the board confirms significant increases for seniors and the minister insists upon a do-nothing attitude. Is she finally prepared to acknowledge the problem and to advocate changes that will ensure fair treatment for seniors? Is she finally prepared to do something?

Hon. Mrs. Wilson: I am very happy to report that there was a good meeting held yesterday between the members of the United Senior Citizens of Ontario and myself. They brought forward their concerns. They have some genuine concerns that their members are bringing to them.

I have been meeting, of course, with my colleague the Minister of Financial Institutions, as well as with the members of the auto insurance board. Two of those nine members, as a matter of fact, happen to be senior citizens. They are listening very carefully to those concerns.

It is worth noting that today many insurance firms offer no discounts to senior citizens. I think one of the real values of this exercise will be that the rates will be published for everyone in the province, so that seniors and others can check in the book and determine what the competition is offering. Then, if there is someone who is offering a lower rate, consumers will have the opportunity to go to that company and get the most appropriate rate for them. I see that as being an advantage to all insurance consumers across the province.

Mr. Jackson: Mr. Speaker, with your permission, I would like to stand down a question to the Minister of Education who will be here in a few moments. I will stand it down if I can.

Mr. Speaker: Are all members agreed?

Mr. Villeneuve: Here he comes.

Mr. Speaker: The member may put his question now.

STANDARDIZED SCHOOL TESTS

Mr. Jackson: Like all persons in Ontario concerned about the quality of education, we read with interest the headline in this morning's Toronto Star, "Standardized Tests Coming for Grade Schoolers."

We all have our own opinions as to what standardized tests are, but the minister states in the article and he further clarifies that the purpose of these is not to fail students, but to help identify students at risk so that he can provide the necessary supports to ensure what many have come to call equality of outcomes for students.

Can the minister please tell us, after he has done all these tests, what is his plan in order to ensure that these programs are made available to these at-risk students? Will the province be paying for those or will he be passing that on to the municipalities?

Hon. Mr. Ward: I would like to thank the member for his question. As he knows, over the course of the past three or four years, there have been a number of studies and reports done on Ontario's education system, not the least of which was the report of the select committee on education, which I will be responding to in the very near future.

One of the things that has been clearly brought to light is the fact that many students have encountered difficulty in the system and come at risk at a very, very early age. Students who lack sufficient proficiency in the basic skill areas are the ones who are most likely to eventually drop out.

We are looking at developing a mechanism of assessing each and every student in this province. Some of that will be done, I am sure, by way of appropriate diagnostic assessment instruments; some of that will be done through the professional judgement of classroom teachers.

As a result of testing and assessment at regular intervals, I believe we will be able to identify those students who need the most help. I believe that we will be able to put in place appropriate plans for specific remediation initiatives at every step through the process.

Mr. Jackson: My question to the minister was about who is going to pay for the aftermath of this standardized testing experience which, by his own agenda, will occur just prior to the next provincial election. Of course, all people involved in education in Ontario have a healthy respect for the promises that he has made and the promises he delivers around election times. That is why I want the minister to focus, if he would, on the question I am asking him about funding.

Who is going to pay for this? The point is that when he promised a 20:1 ratio in the primary division, he promised one formula before the election, but he funded at a much lower rate after the election. Will the minister please tell those in education today and this House who is going to

pay for these programs that will result after he has done this testing?

Mr. Speaker: Minister.

Mr. Jackson: Will they be provincially funded—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Jackson: —or will they have to come out of municipalities?

Mr. Speaker: That is the third time for the same question.

1410

Hon. Mr. Ward: Again, I am delighted the member raised the specific issue in terms of the kinds of commitments we have made over the years and the extent to which we have fulfilled those commitments. I remind the member that back in 1987 we gave a commitment to reduce class sizes in the primary grades because we recognize, and I think most people in the educational community recognize and would concede, that greater individual attention can certainly have the most impact, particularly in the primary years.

The member knows full well that we fully funded that initiative. Indeed, the member would probably concede that through the throne speech initiative we even went beyond the commitment given during the election campaign. Not only did we provide the additional funds for those boards to hire additional teachers to reduce their pupil-teacher ratios, but we went beyond that and provided additional funds to boards that had already fulfilled that commitment, that already had lower pupil-teacher ratios in those primary grades, and we allocated additional money to be committed to other initiatives in the primary division.

I am glad he raised the issue because I know the member will be the first to admit that not only did we meet that commitment given in 1987, but we have exceeded it and fully funded it.

Mr. Jackson: The minister knows he did not fund according to his election promise. In fact, the 14-point educational program of the Premier (Mr. Peterson) has not materialized with the dollars being transferred from his government. The fact is that the minister's statement about standardized tests and what it implies to Ontario schools is the first window we have as to how he is going to be campaigning on education issues two and a half years from now.

The minister is carefully avoiding the question, but I will ask him one more time. If the minister is planning for the future of Ontario's educational needs and he is going to put an

overlay of standardized tests in place, who is going to pay for those programs? Will it be the province or will he pass it on to municipalities?

Hon. Mr. Ward: I truly believe the residents of this province, as taxpayers and electors, can judge the extent to which we have met our commitments in education and the extent to which we have funded our commitments. The member points out we have not provided the funds or the amount of funding that was indicated in that initiative. I am not sure how the member can say that when he knows full well that the increase in funding to school boards in this province since 1987 is in excess of an additional \$500 million, not including the capital side, to help boards in delivering effective programs.

I recognize full well that the most important component of any diagnostic assessment mechanism will be the kinds of initiatives we can take within our schools, the kinds of initiatives we can take provincially to provide remediation. I will look forward very much to sharing with the member some of those ideas in the very near future.

NURSING SERVICES

Mr. Reville: My question is for the Minister of Health. Two months ago, Eleanor Barnes, who lives in La Salle, which is between Amherstburg and Windsor, was told she needed coronary bypass surgery. She was given a surgery date at the University Hospital in London of from five to six weeks and subsequently was rescheduled until July. Concerned that she might not live long enough to have that surgery, she made arrangements, as people do, in Detroit to have the surgery completed, but while shopping in Taylor, Michigan, she suffered three heart attacks on February 12 and had the bypass surgery done almost immediately thereafter in Taylor, Michigan.

I want to ask the minister why she is still not moving on the shortage of critical care nurses all over this province.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: In fact, I am aware of the case the member has raised. My colleague from Windsor brought that to my attention. I can tell him that anyone who finds himself in an emergency situation outside this province is covered fully by the Ontario health insurance plan.

Mr. Reville: I think what the minister has just told us is that she is not going to do anything about the shortage of critical care nurses. She is going to give people an airline schedule and have them fly to Detroit or Taylor, Michigan.

The minister's colleague, the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Wrye), told Mrs. Barnes that the reasons she could not get earlier surgery in London were the shortage of critical care nurses and budgetary cutbacks. That is what her colleague said.

Will the minister perhaps go and talk to her colleague, find out that there is a shortage of nurses not only in Toronto, as she keeps saying, but throughout the province and then get on with the job of doing something about it? Eleanor Barnes is awfully lucky to be here today.

Mr. Speaker: That is a good, straightforward question. Minister.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Once again, I correct the member and the impression he is leaving with members in this House and with the public. There have been no cutbacks in any of the hospital budgets. Every budget of every hospital in this province has increased. In fact, since 1985, hospital base budgets have increased by \$2 billion, from \$3.9 billion to \$6 billion this year. That is an increase of some 50 per cent in this province. I think it is very important for us to be absolutely clear: There have been no cuts in hospital budgets, only increases.

USE OF MINISTRY AFFILIATION

Mr. Harris: I have a question for the Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet regarding Ministry of Housing staff involvement with the nongovernment Advanced Card Technology Association of Canada. The minister may recall that I raised this subject with the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek) on Monday.

Can the Chairman of Management Board confirm what I was advised by members of his ministry, namely, that, one, no report has ever been submitted to Management Board with respect to the Smart card concept; and two, that no ministries have requested funding from Management Board either to pursue this initiative or even to undertake a pilot project on the Smart card technology? Can the Chairman of Management Board confirm that for me today?

Hon. Mr. Elston: To my knowledge, there has not been an official report to Management Board with respect to the Smart card issue, although I am certainly quite aware of it, as are a number of my colleagues. With respect to requests for funding, I do not know of any that have come to Management Board. If my staff indicated none had come, then I would have to agree with that.

Mr. Harris: As Chairman of Management Board, the minister is responsible for ensuring

that dollars paid by the public that are to be directed through various ministries for ministry programs are in fact spent for those programs and are spent properly.

Does the minister not have concerns with a deputy minister and a minister authorizing staff expenses, office space and telephones to embark on a program or activity that the minister herself acknowledged in a letter yesterday has nothing to do with the Ministry of Housing and is an activity on behalf of an association that is outside and apparently has nothing to do with the government itself? Does the minister not have concerns with that?

Hon. Mr. Elston: The honourable gentleman exaggerates, as he is wont to do in these days of leadership activity as he tries to compare himself favourably with the right-winger from Brockville, the member for Leeds-Grenville (Mr. Runciman), and the other right-winger, the member for Burlington South (Mr. Jackson).

The honourable gentleman knows, if he reads the full issue put forward in the letter, that the Minister of Housing explained very clearly that in fact the gentleman about whom he raised the question was performing duties and types of activities that he assumed from his days with the Management Board of Cabinet, when he was looking at the opportunities available with respect to this particular project.

The gentleman was serving in a voluntary capacity. He had been asked to head up the association until the association itself got started. He has done a lot of work. He is very sensitive to the types of issues that have to be worked on and developed so that this association can get up and running on its own feet.

I can tell the honourable gentleman that he does a disservice to the person who has been mandated to do some studies and look into some of the advantages and opportunities that lie in front of us with respect to the so-called Smart card project. I can tell the honourable gentleman we are quite well aware of the level of interest of a number of people in the Smart card project. I have met with some people who, interestingly enough, are making use of variations of the Smart card in other areas of activity—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Elston:—and I can tell the member that the activity level of this—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

1420

RETAIL SALES TAX ON COINS

Mr. Faubert: My question is to the Treasurer. In 1983, the domestically produced Maple Leaf

gold coin was exempted from retail sales tax with a goal of establishing a market niche for the then newly created bullion coin. All other precious metal coins, including its main competitor, the South African krugerrand, maintained their taxable status. In 1986, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade ruled that this exemption was in contravention of our trade obligations and the sales tax exemption was eliminated. Can the Treasurer update this Legislature on domestic sales and the effect of the sales tax on the coin before, during and after the exemption period.

Mr. Mackenzie: My, that's a big question.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: That is a very important question. I appreciate the honourable member giving me notice. The honourable member will realize that all provinces have a sales tax on gold coins except Alberta which, as we all know, does not have a sales tax, and what is more does not want one.

The point is that in 1983 the government of Ontario relieved the Canadian gold coin of sales tax in this province in order that it develop a market niche, which it certainly did. GATT internationally indicated that this was not permitted and that we had to take the tax off all coins or put it on all. For some reason, I decided, as Treasurer, to recommend that the tax be put on all gold coins.

Since then, the sales of the coins have not been seriously inhibited. The Maple Leaf gold coin is the world's bestseller, representing 45 per cent of the world market for these coins. On that basis, it has kept in step with the production of gold in Ontario, which has increased over the years from 32.3 metric tonnes in 1985 to 57.9 metric tonnes this year, a 79 per cent increase, so you cannot say that the tax has interfered with the expansion of the sales of the coin.

Mr. Faubert: The Ontario Mining Association has recently requested the retail sales tax be removed from the gold coin to boost its domestic sales. As well, the Royal Canadian Mint has just introduced the silver bullion coin, which is also subject to sales tax. An exemption to all gold and silver coins could likely increase our demand by lowering the price and increasing their investment appeal. It seems this, in turn, would increase directly the demand for precious metals produced in Canada and directly benefit the Ontario mining industry, if this were done. I would like the Treasurer to advise the Legislature of his actual reasons for not exempting these precious metal coins.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I appreciate the honourable member's interest. To be perfectly frank,

my real reason for not accepting it would be revenue. There is a person at the mining association I used to know reasonably well who mentions this to me from time to time. In this connection, the officials of Treasury have talked to the representatives of the mining association and also the governor of the mint as to what their prospects are. I think it would be inappropriate for me to say here, before the budget, what the outcome of that decision would be. Right now, I am not filled with enthusiasm for the recommendation the honourable member has not really made, but which is inherent in his very useful question.

HOSPITAL SERVICES

Mr. Mackenzie: I have a question for the Minister of Health. Jamieson Willis is a three-year-old lad in my riding with a single heart ventricle with multiple defects. Following a cardiac catheter procedure done at the Hospital for Sick Children on October 8, Jamieson's mom was told that he needed an operation to live and that now was the best time. The operation was scheduled for February 21. She brought Jamieson to the hospital this past Sunday, and because of a slight cold and no beds was told it would be delayed another five days. When she had not heard on Tuesday, she phoned the Hospital for Sick Children and was told it was now rescheduled to April 18, two months away. What help can the minister offer to Justine and Jamieson Willis?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: First, let me say that the Hospital for Sick Children is an excellent facility in Ontario and one we are all very proud of. They recognize that even a slight cold—as a mother with children myself, I can tell the member that when a child is not feeling well, surgeons are very reluctant in their medical judgement to proceed with any medical procedure. That is always an influencing factor.

The Hospital for Sick Children is very sensitive to having to postpone any elective surgery for any children because of the trauma and the effect on the family. In fact, they do so only when there is an elective nature to that surgery, and as well only when there is an emergency or life-threatening situation that must be given priority.

Mr. Mackenzie: I will try to restrain myself. Mrs. Willis was at the meeting at the Hamilton Convention Centre when the health care community in Hamilton, a couple of thousand strong, told the minister what it thought of her stewardship. She told me she was amazed at the number

of people with problems similar to the one she had. The meeting convinced her that she had to speak out. I suggest that either the minister resolve the situation, and I do not think it is elective for young Jamieson Willis, or that she be held responsible for his condition over the next few months in this province.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: As the member opposite knows, I am not a physician. We rely on physicians to use their very best medical judgement to determine who is elective and who is in need of surgery on a priority basis. If the member would send me the details, I would be pleased to ask the Hospital for Sick Children, which stands accountable for the decisions of its staff, to get him the information as to this situation in particular. If he will give me those details, I would be pleased to investigate.

ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS

Mr. Cureatz: I have a question to the Minister of Energy.

Interjections.

Mr. Cureatz: I see the Liberal rump is going to be supporting me for my leadership bid in the upcoming—

Mr. Eves: This is going to be a whole new party.

Mr. Cureatz: Is the member for Parry Sound worried?

As the minister is aware, there is concern about the effects of electromagnetic fields that apparently take place around transmission lines and transformers and possibly in wiring in homes and office buildings. Investigations are presently at a preliminary stage with Ontario Hydro. Could the minister bring us up to date as to what stage Ontario Hydro is at in its investigation and when does he anticipate Ontario Hydro making its report on these findings?

Hon. Mr. Wong: That sounds like a leadership question and I wish to treat the honourable member's question very seriously. I know this is a matter of deep concern to many citizens. I wish to assure all members that Ontario Hydro continues to monitor the effects of electromagnetic fields on people, whether they be workers, schoolchildren or people who live near these transmission lines or other devices that emit radiation. Let me assure the member that at present the Ontario Hydro utility builds transmission lines that comply with the World Health Organization guidelines and other generally accepted international standards.

With respect to the major study in which Ontario Hydro is engaged with Hydro-Québec and the French utility Electricité de France, Ontario Hydro is dedicating \$3 million to this project. It should be completed in approximately 1993 and therefore I anticipate results at or around that time.

1430

Mr. Cureatz: With the minister's expression of concern about the problem we may be encountering and the investigation by Ontario Hydro, does he not think this would be another appropriate topic for the select committee on energy to be investigating, along with the demand-supply options study, this summer? Will he be recommending to his cabinet colleagues the continuation of the select committee on energy this summer to investigate the previous committee's work and this new problem area that we should be seriously taking a look at?

Hon. Mr. Wong: The government is reviewing any role that the select committee on energy could take in the future. Certainly, this is one of the subjects that we will give serious consideration to.

YOUNG OFFENDERS

Mr. Black: My question is to the Attorney General. In the report of the Task Force on Illegal Drug Use in Ontario, two of the recommendations dealt specifically with the Young Offenders Act. The first dealt with amendments to the privacy provisions of that act, to allow for consultations and discussions of a young offender's case with persons directly involved in education, support or treatment.

Can the Attorney General inform the House if he has made any progress with his federal counterpart in relation to this recommendation?

Hon. Mr. Scott: I thank the honourable member for the question. His report has been recognized not only in this province, but beyond, as a very useful contribution to this subject.

The question of information dissemination which he raises has been raised by me at a number of conferences of attorneys general over the past three years as part of a package of amendments to the act that I have continually proposed. I regret to say that I have made no significant headway on that subject over the past three years.

The good news, however, is that over the past six months or so my colleagues in other provinces have begun to turn seriously to these questions. I believe that at the next conference, which will be held in May, there is every

prospect that the new Attorney General of Canada will be able to respond positively to the kind of suggestion, and others, which the honourable member has advanced so vigorously.

Mr. Black: The second recommendation dealt with steps taken to achieve appropriate legislative changes, enabling a court to impose alternative measures on a young person involved in offences related to drugs. Has the Attorney General studied this recommendation and can he inform us whether any actions have been taken to implement such a recommendation?

Hon. Mr. Scott: As the honourable member knows, because his report refers to it, drug offences in Ontario are prosecuted by the Attorney General of Canada, not by local police or the Attorney General of the province of Ontario. It therefore follows that if there were to be an alternative measures program, it would be one that the federal authority would apply with respect to its own prosecutions.

Having ordered us, as the Court of Appeal decided, to have an alternative measures program for Criminal Code offences, which we have, they do not seem to have created an alternative measures program of their own for narcotics and controlled substances offence prohibitions, but they are well aware of the proposal the honourable member has made. I will advance it as vigorously as I can at the May meeting.

The honourable member has also made a proposal, for a variety of reasons, that the prosecution of drug offences in Ontario should be taken from the hands of the federal government and reposed in the office of the Attorney General. We are examining that proposal, which has of course significant financial implications as well.

STANDARDIZED SCHOOL TESTS

Mr. R. F. Johnston: My question is for the Minister of Education. It again concerns standardized tests and this strange announcement made by the minister yesterday, after we had a full estimates meeting in which he had not raised the matter except to vaguely allude to benchmark tests.

First, I want to ask the minister just exactly what he is saying here, and I want him to clarify it if he would, please. In his response to a member from the third party, he indicated that the standard ways we now look after children with needs is that the individual teacher does assessments and professionals are brought in with diagnostic tools on an individual basis to determine whether a child has needs. What is the

role of a standardized written test to determine the individual learning needs of a child—not to be held back, as the minister says, but for remediation—what is that role and why has the minister moved in this direction?

Hon. Mr. Ward: Let me begin by disabusing the member of the notion that the very first time there has been any allusion—the fact that there is a need to put appropriate assessment mechanisms into place throughout the school system certainly was not raised just yesterday. It is a matter that has been of great concern and subject to much debate and discussion over a period of many years.

The member will know that for the past six months I have indicated on many occasions that I believe the need is there; that we do have an obligation within our school system to do everything we can to see that it meets the needs of each and every child coming into the system; that we do have an obligation to ensure that every child who moves through our education system has the basic skills necessary, at least upon entering high school.

I would remind the member of the recommendations contained not only in many of the research studies, but indeed of the select committee on education, which strongly suggested student assessment as a means of diagnosing those students at risk, those students who needed the most help. That was a clear recommendation of that committee. He will know—

Mr. Speaker: He might have a supplementary and you could add to that.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I do know what the select committee said, and the select committee did not talk about a standardized assessment form to be used as a written test for students across the province. We have all agreed that there has to be some kind of assessment tool.

My question for the minister is, what is the use of the standard written form, especially when his own advisory committee has asked him time and time again not to do this?

Hon. Mr. Ward: As I was saying, the member will know that some three years ago the government indicated that it was undertaking a three-year project for the development of benchmark standards within our elementary schools. As yet, the testing instruments have not been developed, but frankly I believe that they can and should be developed for individual student assessment in conjunction and in line with our work on the benchmark standards.

I believe that one of the fundamental reasons we need such a system is to satisfy the concerns

of parents throughout this province who want to know the extent to which the needs of their children are being served, how their students are performing, and the kinds of activities that are in place to provide them with remediation.

I expect that we can move forward, over the course of the next two years or so, to develop those instruments with consultation among all of the interested stakeholders; that student assessment in conjunction with professional evaluation within the classroom is an appropriate mechanism by which to determine those students who are in need and to determine which students—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

HOMES FOR THE AGED

Mr. Wiseman: I have a question for the Attorney General. One of my constituents was allegedly assaulted in a rest home in Cardinal. Charges were laid and the accused was acquitted on February 13 at Brockville district court by a Judge Hurley. The verdict was apparently, in part, the result of the judge's decision not to accept the complainant's evidence, which was taken on commission.

I would ask the Attorney General to investigate this case and, if it is warranted, see that an appeal be taken.

Hon. Mr. Scott: I thank the honourable member for the inquiry. If the honourable member could pass me the name of the case, the name of the accused or the complainant, I would be glad to look into it.

I remind him that there is a time limit for appealing; perhaps he could do that as quickly as possible. I would be glad to report to him.

Mr. Wiseman: I would like to thank the Attorney General for doing that on behalf of my constituents and the people in the area who are concerned.

In view of the number of charges that have been laid against rest homes in Ontario, I would ask the Attorney General if he feels, as I do, that perhaps it is time we bring rest homes under some sort of standards. I am sure every member of this House agrees that everyone in Ontario has the right to expect that their loved ones are going to be looked after in a caring manner and that this criterion of a loving, caring manner will be met.

Will the Attorney General now consider legislation to protect the elderly of the province who are living in rest homes?

1440

Hon. Mr. Scott: As the honourable member knows, the law enforcement agencies in the

province are quite determined to see that standards, such as they are, are maintained in rest homes; public health standards and so on. Of course, that leads to the very kind of prosecution which the honourable member referred to in his first case.

If the honourable member is now asking whether rest homes should be regulated by the province generally, I will be glad to take that up with the appropriate ministers who would be responsible in the event of such regulation and with my cabinet colleagues, and in due course report to the honourable member, as I always do.

HAZARDOUS WASTES

Mr. Reycraft: I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. I was notified about a half-hour ago that the Ontario Provincial Police have blocked off a road in Biddulph township in the northern part of Middlesex county. The information I have received suggests that the reason for the blockage of the road is that someone has deposited waste oil on the road as a dust suppressant and a further suggestion has been made that the oil was contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls.

I would like to ask the minister if he is aware of this situation and, if he is, what action has been taken to protect the people of Biddulph township.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: It is a very good question. My understanding of the incident is that an individual or a firm sought permission from the local municipality to spread waste oil as a dust suppressant, was denied that permission and went ahead and spread the waste oil, which can, of course, on any occasion, contain products we do not want on our roads. This went for about 1.6 kilometres of the roadway.

We did a preliminary test which showed there were 58 parts per million of PCBs from this informal sample. We are now testing a further sample, a legal sample we have, to determine whether there are PCBs and additional waste products that we do not believe should be there.

We have notified the medical officer of health. The Ministry of the Environment and the OPP are closing the road at this time, as the member has mentioned. I want to assure him that the investigation and enforcement branch of the Ministry of the Environment will be conducting a full investigation, and if charges are warranted, of course charges will be laid.

Mr. Speaker: That completes the allotted time for oral questions and responses.

Mr. Allen: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: It has been somewhat astonishing to me that in

the course of our session this afternoon no one from the government side has risen to explain the circumstances in the Ministry of Community and Social Services office in North Bay, which was occupied last night by the staff of the North Bay and District Association for the Mentally Retarded. I know the minister is not here—maybe he is attending to that business, but the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) is.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. I have listened carefully. I do not believe the member has a point of order. However, it would have made a good question.

PETITIONS

OVERCROWDING IN SCHOOLS

Mr. Cousens: "To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Given that the present population of Brother André high school in Markham consists of 1,500 students and is at capacity; and

"That the projected enrolment for September 1990 is approximately 2,700, with the majority of increased enrolment at the grades 9 and 10 level; and

"That the potential overcrowding will have serious repercussions for students and teachers alike;

"The Ministry of Education, in consultation with the York Region Roman Catholic Separate School Board, move immediately to approve a new high school for occupancy in September 1991 in Milliken Mills that will include initially grades 9 and 10 and therefore alleviate potential intolerable conditions at Brother André high school."

It is duly signed by myself, with signatures from residents in Markham, Unionville and Scarborough.

YORK REGION LAND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Cousens: "To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the dramatic growth rate in York region has placed extreme pressure on the municipal planning process, and given that serious allegations have been made regarding the integrity of this process in York region, we strongly urge the provincial government to conduct a full and open public inquiry into the

municipal planning process and land development practices of York region."

It is signed by myself, with the signatures of residents from Markham, Unionville, Thornhill and York region.

MOTION

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

Hon. Mr. Conway moved that Mr. South, Mrs. LeBourdais, Mr. Leone and Mr. Owen exchange places respectively in the order of precedence for private members' public business and that, notwithstanding standing order 71(h), the requirement for notice be waived with respect to ballot items 67 and 68.

Motion agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

INDEPENDENT HEALTH FACILITIES ACT (continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 147, An Act respecting Independent Health Facilities.

Mr. Keyes: It is a pleasure to rise and participate in this debate on the introduction of Bill 147, the Independent Health Facilities Act. May I first apologize for the cause of yesterday's delay in my brief respite from the rigours of this House in the east lobby, but I do have that opportunity now today to return and to put forth some of my own views on the merits of this very important piece of legislation.

I want to talk for a few moments about this entire health system in its broadest scope and how the Independent Health Facilities Act fits into the overall scheme of a well-managed, well-regulated, effective health care system.

One of the strongest characteristics, indeed one of the strengths, of our Ontario health care system has been its continuing evolution and its openness to change. We would have to agree that in the last three years we have seen a considerable extent of movement towards change, concern for the status of our citizens and their health care.

We have seen and we continue to see dramatic new development in technologies and procedures. We are seeing the development of new health professions and expanding roles for the traditional care providers.

We also see new advances in health promotion, disease prevention, the shifting of responsibility to the individual to have a greater concern for his own status of health, government assistance by the way of funding in these programs of health promotion and disease

prevention, and we are seeing ever-rising public expectations about the ability of the health care system to meet our health care needs.

It is our government's view that the Ministry of Health has a major responsibility to show leadership in directing these currents of change so that we realize objectives that result in improved health care and improved health for the people of this province.

It was with this objective in mind that last June the minister introduced the Independent Health Facilities Act. The bottom line in all of this is simply that the proposed legislation will allow the minister to regulate and develop community-based health facilities where many of the complex medical services previously covered by the Ontario health insurance plan and usually performed in hospitals can now be done. The act, in short, is part of the ministry's general commitment to improve both the level and the quality of community-based health care throughout the province to create a positive shift in the provision of health care services.

1450

During the framing of this legislation there have been extensive consultations with the professional associations and organizations. Those consultations are continuing even today. This is a pioneer effort that we are undertaking here in Ontario, because it represents the first legislative approach anywhere for the regulation of community-based clinics.

A few of the states in the United States have legislation for regulating the Emergicenters, as they are known, and the Surgicenters, but none has even attempted the type of comprehensive legislation that we are moving forward with in this province with Bill 147.

In fact, if members want to think back to the press of the last few days, they will have seen surveys of the US system of health care done among its own citizens. They can see now, for the first time ever, the desire of the Americans to have a health care system that more genuinely reflects that which we have here in Ontario, in Canada particularly, more than any other place in the world. That is most significant and, shall we say, a genuine stamp of approval for the health care system that we are constantly working to make more sensitive to the needs of our citizens.

In framing the legislation in Bill 147, the ministry has three broad objectives:

First, to fund the needed services and to develop a more community-based health care system in consultation with the district health councils and the providers of care;

Second, to ensure that patients receive quality medical care as close to home as possible. Today, of course, that is most significant to each and every one of us. It is equally important that those procedures be performed in a safe, effective manner;

Third, to accept the responsibility to regulate facilities so that they are appropriately located and established in a rational and planned manner.

These are the three specific, broad objectives inherent in this legislation.

Once this legislation is enacted—and we trust that it may well get its second reading today—under the appropriate surveillance of the citizenry of this province, the independent health facilities will function in a manner similar to the hospital outpatient clinics, with a range of services provided by those same people we would find within our hospitals—doctors, nurses, technicians and other clinical staff.

In these community facilities, patients will be able to undergo certain medical, surgical and investigative procedures without being admitted to hospital, with a very direct saving in costs but also the preservation of hospital beds for perhaps more acute situations.

The facilities will not keep patients overnight. However, any patient who does need treatment that would require an overnight stay will be cared for in hospital, as is now our normal procedure.

Before any community facility is licensed under this act, there must be a demonstrated need for the service or the range of services to be provided. Keeping in mind the method we have currently used, the usual procedure in applying for a licence will be as follows.

The local district health council, which is one of the major planning adjuncts of the government, or a community group or a medical group, will define a need and recommend to the minister that a facility be established; or the ministry may identify a need and then ask the district health councils to respond with their recommendations.

Second, if the minister agrees with the recommendation and other public-interest criteria are met, the ministry will call for proposals which clearly set out the type of services to be offered. The district health councils will usually review all proposals, rank the order of priority and make recommendations to the minister. The minister will choose a proposal based on merit. Finally, the successful applicant will develop the facility or the service.

In granting licences for community facilities, the ministry will give preference to Canadian and not-for-profit groups. The ministry may enter

into a variety of funding arrangements for any of these new facilities. I might just recap a couple of those examples. For example, the facility may be funded on a global basis, covering the costs of operating the facility, including the purchase of medical equipment and the professional services; or, as an alternative, the facilities may be partially funded for costs other than those doctors' fees, leaving the physicians free to bill the Ontario health insurance plan for their professional services.

Where this second option is agreed upon, the ministry will then pay a facility fee, in other words, the overhead and the operating costs of providing a service that would normally be connected with providing that same service in a hospital but which are not covered by OHIP when provided outside a hospital.

For example, what would the overhead be? The cost of maintaining, staffing and operating of an operating room; the cost of paying a technician to operate laser equipment; the cost of purchasing and operating the equipment itself needed to perform bladder or heart investigations, and the cost of implantable devices, for example, a lens implant in the eye as part of cataract surgery.

The capital or the building costs will normally be the responsibility of the licensee. These costs will be taken into consideration by the ministry when negotiating funding for the facilities. The ministry will also take into account the costs of mortgages and the financing for the five-year licensing period. The only services for which a doctor may charge a patient are those which are neither part of a facility fee nor insured under OHIP, such as cosmetic surgery and medical examinations for insurance coverage.

With respect to the issue of quality assurance, the act requires any licensed facility to establish an appropriate method for monitoring the care and treatment it provides. The ministry is also empowered to designate assessors or inspectors to assess the quality of care and to ensure that the provisions of the act are upheld. Both assessors and inspectors will be governed by the secrecy requirements of section 30 of the act, as well as by the patient confidentiality provisions of the professional governing bodies to which they belong. For example, physicians are subject to regulation by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario.

Once a licence has been granted to a community-based facility, it will be issued for a period of up to five years and will not be transferable. Assuming that the facility has

complied with the legislation and the conditions of its licence, the licence will be renewed unless the minister is aware of exceptional circumstances. In deciding whether to direct that a licence not be issued or renewed, the minister will consider a variety of issues which could include, but not be exclusive of, the type of service being provided, the extent to which the service is already available somewhere else in Ontario, the need for the service or the range of services being provided, the future need for the service, the cost to the public and the availability of public money to pay for the operation of the facility. Licences may be revoked when cause has been clearly documented, such as an immediate threat to the health or the safety of any person.

1500

In keeping with the ministry's emphasis on improving community-based health care and assuring quality of care, the act will fall under the jurisdiction of the assistant deputy minister of community health. A director of independent health facilities reporting to the executive director of community health will be appointed to oversee these facilities. The director, however, will not be involved in the day-to-day operation of those facilities.

There is just one final item that I want to touch on this afternoon about this legislation. I have attempted to give members an idea of how it will operate when it becomes effective. Facilities that were in operation on June 2, 1988, which is the date that the legislation was introduced in this Legislature, may be grandfathered and allowed to continue to operate as they are until one year after the act comes into force. During that year, these facilities may apply for a licence without going through the competition process which will be essential for any new service created in such a facility. The ministry will review these applications and make a decision based on the quality of care, cost and need.

In the opinion of this House, the opinion of this party, this is an extremely important piece of legislation for our province. It has a major implication for the future direction of our health care system and for the environment in which our Ontario health professionals will be working. I urge the support of all members of this House for Bill 148.

Mr. B. Rae: I want to take this opportunity to participate in this debate. I listened with interest when the minister first announced this bill and encouraged very much the discussion that has taken place in this House on this question, have

consulted widely with community groups and nurses and members of the medical profession concerning Bill 147, and I can tell members that the bill does not do those things which the government tells us it is intended to do.

It is presented by the minister and indeed by the parliamentary assistant, the member for Kingston and The Islands (Mr. Keyes), who just spoke, as if this bill is intended to set up a province-wide community network of facilities which will be, in the words of the minister, community-based.

I think that what is interesting, as always to somebody in this business, is the way in which words are used. Of course any facility that is located in the province is community-based because it is based in some community and therefore it is community-based. But I am here to tell members that in any of the normal understandings of that term, as our understandings have developed in the whole health care debate in this province over the last 30 years, when we talk about community-based care, we are talking about nonprofit, community-controlled, participatory, public-health-oriented centres that have an entirely different connotation from the one that is presented in this bill.

I thought the classic phrase was the one which was spoken by the member for Kingston and the Islands when he reminded us that the government would be licensing facilities but in turn, to use his phrase, it would require that capital and financial costs remain the responsibility of the licensee. I think that is almost a direct quotation. It had such a felicitous quality to it as it was spoken by the member that I wrote it down.

As long as the capital and financial costs for the kinds of facilities that are contemplated by this government are the responsibility of the licensee, this act is a licence requirement for private-profit facilities and clinics operating as businesses in Ontario. That is the beginning of it and that is the end of it. Anything else that happens under this bill will be a frill on the side and not the central thrust.

Because I know the Speaker has a nostalgic bent, I want to take him back to the debates that took place in this House in the late 1960s and early 1970s on the question of nursing homes. I would suspect, going by memory—and as the Minister for Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) will know, that is one of the attributes of a person that can begin to fade at a certain time in life—that the last major expansion of this notion of licensing, and then setting up an administrative and legal regime to cover the people who have been given

the licence and to provide operating funds for those licensees, was, of course, as members will recall, the Nursing Homes Act of 1971 and the amendments which have taken place since that time.

What has happened under the Nursing Homes Act? Under the Nursing Homes Act, there are approximately 30,000 beds in the private nursing home system in Ontario. My colleague the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. D. S. Cooke) is nodding. I do not think it means he is falling asleep, I think it means that he is agreeing with me. Since he was once our Health critic and is very knowledgeable in the area of nursing homes, he says that I am right about that. Over 95 per cent of those nursing homes in this province are owned and operated as businesses. It is a business in which, to use the phrase of the member for Kingston and the Islands, the capital and financial costs are the responsibility of the licensee, but the operating costs are paid for by the residents in the nursing homes to a certain amount and by the government of Ontario to an additional amount.

The government can blather on about community-based care all it wants; the reality is that this bill is a bill to license private-profit medicine: medicine operated as a business in the province. It will create a network of clinics of various kinds for the treatment of various illnesses that can be done outside the confines of a hospital. The government will find some hospitals going into business to operate these facilities. It will find some doctors buying licences to operate these facilities. It will find doctors and capitalists working together to operate these facilities and it will have these facilities paid for by the taxpayers of Ontario.

The capital value of the businesses that operate with these licences will increase very substantially; it will become extremely valuable. We will also find that the people whose businesses are doing business with the government of the day will be spending lots of money going to dinners for the Liberal Party, going to dinners for the Minister of Health and funding the Liberal Party the same way the nursing home owners funded the Tory Party right through the 1970s and right through the 1980s.

This is the Liberal Party's effort to build a private-profit network of health care in this province. I predict it. I do not say it with any pride, because I think it is a shame that it is happening. I think it is going to create more problems than it is worth, and it has nothing

whatsoever to do with this notion of community-based care.

1510

I know members opposite will say that the Leader of the Opposition should read the bill and understand that under the bill preference is being given to independent health facilities that are operated on a nonprofit basis, and that the person who submitted the proposal should be a Canadian or the corporate person should be controlled by a Canadian or a permanent resident.

I want to just educate members a little bit on this subject. There are not too many community groups in York South that can pool their pin money and buy a lithotripsy machine to service the people in the west end of Toronto. There are not too many people in my riding who can pool their savings and say, "We think it would be a great idea if we went out and raised some community-based money in order to buy a laser machine to provide for the latest in operations for the human eye."

Let's get with it here. The capital costs of setting up the kind of facilities that are being contemplated in this bill are high, they are substantial and they will not be paid for, at first blush, by people operating on a nonprofit basis. The government will not get applications from small community-based groups to establish the kind of clinics it is talking about. It will get applications from companies and from partnerships operated by members of the medical profession. It will not get operations that are put forward on a nonprofit basis, and once it declares that someone has a licence, what it is really doing is selling a licence to print money. That is what it turns out to be.

We now have a capitalization of beds in our nursing home system, so when nursing home operators get together, they talk about how much each bed is worth. Why is that? Who has created that value? Do members want to know who has created that value? It is not the free market. We have created that value. This government has created that value. The Liberal Party has created that value, just as the Tories created that value. It is because we have a very heavy demand, a very heavy government subsidy and a limitation in terms of access in the form of a licence.

That is what a licence is. That is what licensees are all about. That is what this system is all about. The fellow who has the lithotripsy licence for Hamilton or Windsor is going to be in business and making a ton of money out of having that licence. It is just as surely the case as the Extendicares, the Bestviews and the others

whose empires have been financed by the people of this province. We give them the money. They have the ownership, they have the control and we give them the cash. That is called private enterprise.

That is the worst of both worlds. It is where we have a private profit system that is fuelled and subsidized by the taxpayer. That is what the government has done for car insurance. What have the Liberals done on car insurance? Instead of operating a genuinely community-based system, what do they do? They have a regulated private-profit system in which profits are built into the system, in which cash flow is built into the system, and it is all sanctified by the Liberal government and the Liberal Party. That is the nature of the insurance ripoff.

I know my remarks will be greeted with scepticism. I can already sense that, looking at the, I must say, interested faces across the way and, to my left here, the Liberal rump over on this side. But I tell them to come back in a year or two years, look at who has the licences, examine who is there and figure out what the capital value of those licences will be six months or a year down the road from the time they were granted. Mark my words, this is a licence to print money. That is what it is all about.

There will be other opportunities for us to discuss at greater length what a community-based system would really look like. But I say to this government that as long as it takes the view that capital costs are going to be borne by the licensees, by the private-profit owners of these businesses, it is not going to have the kind of control, it is not going to have the kind of planning the minister talks about and it is not going to have the kind of value for money you get under a community-based system.

I think the government is making a very serious mistake. It is ironic; you have to have a sense of irony in this business. A bill that is portrayed as community-based and is intended to stop free trade is in fact going to do the exact opposite. It means we are adopting, if not actually American companies, certainly the American philosophy of health care, where more and more of our facilities will be operated on a private-profit basis and on a market approach.

We have a bill which allegedly is going to be expanding the nonprofit community-based sector. I predict, because of the costs involved and because of the way in which the government intends to impose and implement this act, that the exact opposite is going to occur.

Looking perhaps a little more globally, if I might for a few seconds without alarming any of my colleagues, I just want to make the observation that we have Margaret Thatcher in England adopting a similar approach with respect to the National Health Service. She is doing it, as is her wont, more aggressively and more clearly than this Liberal government and she is doing it more directly with respect to the operation of certain hospitals. But if we look at the way this government intends to work the operation of our health care system so that stuff is moved out of hospitals and into these private profit clinics, the net effect over the next five, 10 and 15 years will be the same.

We will have a market in health care in which goods will be marketed by the owners of those goods, in which those who are operating centres will be out marketing the value of the services they are offering and in which the capital value of the facilities themselves will increase and will be dramatically subsidized by the taxpayer.

There is a better way. The better way was the one which was set out by our party in Saskatchewan. It is the way in which, in our view, we now need to extend and develop far beyond the philosophy that has been put forward by the Liberal Party in this province. That way is to expand health care into the community, owned, operated, controlled by and accountable to the community from which it comes. That way, if it is determined that there should be a lithotripsy centre, that lithotripsy centre in Niagara Falls, Kingston, Cornwall or wherever it may be will be established because there is a community need for it and there will be a community determination to pay for it, rather than having to wait for Sam the Record Man to set up his store there in order to make that sale.

That is the difference in philosophy, and it is a very real difference in philosophy. It is going to have a very real different impact on our health care system as the next few years unfold. I know that much of what I say here is greeted with considerable scepticism, not only by my colleagues but by members of other parties as well. They say: "This isn't really what the bill's going to do. This isn't what it's intended to do."

I invite some of the newer members to go back, as I did when I first came here because of my interest in the subject of nursing homes, and look at the debate that took place in 1970 and 1971. All I can say is that we told you what would happen. Look at the comments made by members of the New Democratic Party. They were described as the socialist ravings of a very small

minority of people who did not know what they were talking about.

I am here to tell members it is exactly the same, the parallel development today, as took place in 1971. What the Tories did for nursing homes the Liberals are doing for what they call independent health facilities and what I call private-profit health facilities.

1520

Mark my words, if this bill goes through in its current form, in five years' time we will not have a better-managed or a better-planned system: we will simply have a greedier, more privatized system. That is the Liberal agenda. That is the Liberal answer to the current chaos in our institutional side. That is the answer to the Liberal chaos in the public health side. That is the answer to the Liberal chaos in our health care system, but it is the wrong answer.

The Deputy Speaker: Questions and comments on the member's statement? If not, do other members wish to participate in the debate? If not, does the minister wish to wind up?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I am pleased to rise to wind up this debate on second reading of Bill 147, An Act respecting Independent Health Facilities. This bill was tabled in the Legislature on June 2, 1988, and espoused certain principles.

We discussed at that time how much the practice of medicine had changed. We discussed the three compelling and irresistible forces within our society: the changing demographics, the fact that our population is ageing; the economic reality that, by any international standard, we have the best-funded national health system in the world; the changes of the past decade in technology and the fact that today we are able to see procedures done safely, on an outpatient basis, that previously could only be done on an inpatient basis in hospital.

We have acknowledged the need to establish a framework piece of legislation, to allow us to respond, and respond effectively, to these changing technologies. I would say we have recognized that new technologies have made it possible to safely perform some medical procedures out of a hospital setting.

When I have stood in this House and discussed what I refer to as the vision for the future, and that is to provide equity and access to effective quality health care as close to home as possible, what we are really saying is that the fundamental principles of medicare, discussed in this country in 1968, discussed again in the early 1970s, discussed and, in fact, unanimously agreed to in

the federal Parliament in 1984, are sound principles today.

What we are attempting to do with this legislation is to respond to the changing times, as we adjust our system to acknowledge not only economic realities and changing demographics, but that technology is now allowing us to provide procedures in different settings, so that vision of having those services as close to home as possible becomes a reality in our society.

What we have said is that there are already a number of facilities that have started to offer such services. I believe, and I believe every member of this House will agree, that when services which are presently provided in a hospital setting, where you have a quality assurance mechanism and confidentiality provisions for patients, are provided in a community-based setting, we should expect—in fact, we should demand—the same level of quality assurance, confidentiality and accountability from those providing services in a community-based setting as we presently have in our hospital setting.

This bill allows for the planned expansion of a system of community-based services through the independent health facilities as we envision them. I look forward to this bill going to committee, because there has been much consultation and much discussion with many of the providers, professionals and community groups who are very interested in this.

In fact, I would say to the members of this House that this bill has received attention beyond the borders of Ontario, because it acknowledges the opportunity for us, through this piece of legislation, to see that services can be provided in alternative settings. As I have said to my colleagues in the House, I think this offers unique opportunities for northern Ontario, perhaps for rural Ontario, to look at services which can be provided in alternative settings closer to where people live.

We know that the mechanisms in this bill will ensure that these independent health facilities are appropriately located and that procedures in those facilities, likely perhaps operating rooms, are performed in a safe and effective manner.

The act authorizes the establishment and operation of community-based independent health facilities. I think it is very important to reiterate the stated objectives of this act during this windup debate. We want to develop a more community-based health care system. We want the participation of the district health councils so that we can plan effectively for the future.

We want to ensure that the people of this province receive effective, quality medical care. We want to regulate facilities so that they may be established in a manner which is consistent with a well-planned health care system that can acknowledge the changing times.

The services we envision being provided in an independent health facility would include those provisions which are commonly provided today on an outpatient basis in hospitals. Given how rapidly technology is changing, we can only imagine what kinds of services might be available in the future, so this act is permissive.

It is very clear that we will go out with tenders and requests for proposals to ensure that communities can respond. I believe very strongly that the communities in this province will join together and will join with other providers. I talked in my opening remarks about how important it would be to see these kinds of joint ventures where community boards and those with expertise will come together with proposals unique to the community needs of this province, and I have great confidence that the communities and the community organizations will respond positively. That is why we have said that this bill, as it is written today, has a nonprofit, community-based preference clause.

We have seen a rapid technological explosion. This bill gives us an opportunity not only to respond today but also to plan for the future. The act will permit the expansion of community-based services on a planned basis right across this province so that we can acknowledge where the services are needed and how they can be most effectively provided to the communities in the future.

I can say that there has been much consultation on this bill and that I have listened. I am looking forward to getting to committee on this bill, where we will hopefully have an opportunity to hear from those people who have an interest in this legislation. That will give us an opportunity to make sure that the final product, the bill that comes out of that community, reflects the consultation that has taken place over the many months since this bill was first tabled.

I will tell the members of this House that, in fact, there was a symposium held by the health law organization in this province. Interest from the attendants was positive as many of the aspects of this bill were discussed and debated. I believe that the consultation has been productive and I believe that as we agree today in the principles that this legislation espouses, it will allow us to move forward in the legislative process to

achieve a bill that is the ultimate of the committee structure, the ultimate of the discussions of members of this Legislature, and that we will see a future in this province that will help us to achieve the vision I espoused a few moments ago. It is the reason that when we look at the licensing provisions of the bill, as well as the funding provisions of the bill, we acknowledge changing times, we acknowledge changing needs of communities.

We also acknowledge the fact and the reality that there are some services which are already being provided in what will be considered an independent health facility. That is why we have included, for those that were operating on the day this bill was tabled, a grandfathering provision. Some suggested we might call it a grand-mothering provision. None the less, I think it shows a sensitivity to an acknowledgement of the reality of what is, as we plan for the future.

1530

I believe that when we get to committee this bill, through this discussion we have had with many of the interested partners, with many of the interested providers and with many of the interested professional groups, will result in a piece of legislation that will hopefully be supported by all members in this Legislature, because I believe very strongly, as I have said on numerous occasions, that the health care challenges we face are not a partisan issue.

What we want to attempt as we plan for the future, what we want to be able to plan for the future is that we have a legislative framework in place that will allow us to determine what the needs are, to make sure that every region of this province receives its fair share of available and precious health care resources, to make sure that we involve the communities and the district health councils in our planning and that we go out to the communities for community-based services. This bill will offer us an opportunity to begin that.

Will it respond to all of the changing needs of this province? I think not, because no one piece of legislation, no one initiative can respond entirely to the challenges we face in health care. But is this an important piece of legislation to help us move forward, to make sure the future delivery of services in this province allows us to hand to our children the legacy we were handed, a health care system and delivery of services that will give us quality, that will give us effectiveness in the delivery of those quality services, that will give us accountability by providers and that

will give us quality assurance and protection of the public?

I believe this bill will do that and I encourage members of this House to support this bill in principle today so that it can move to committee for discussion and hopefully back into this House, because it is worthy and deserving of the support of the members of this Legislature.

The Deputy Speaker: Mrs. Caplan has moved second reading of Bill 147, An Act respecting Independent Health Facilities.

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, before you do what you will do, might I just seek the consent of the House.

As members will know, yesterday when the House was in committee of the whole dealing with amendments relating to Bill 128, a vote was stacked, by consent, from that committee to a time today at 5:45 p.m. The House leaders have met and agreed that it would be appropriate for me to seek unanimous consent this afternoon to do the following: that we take the votes on both items, first, second reading of this legislation, Bill 147, after which we would then take the vote that was intended, namely, the committee of the whole on Bill 128, at 5:45 this afternoon.

If I could, I would like to seek unanimous consent to vary the order of the House yesterday to the following: that we will take both votes, the second reading vote on Bill 147 and the committee of the whole vote on the stacked amendment on Bill 128 this afternoon consecutively at whatever time the whips appear before you.

The Deputy Speaker: Is there unanimous consent?

Agreed to.

1600

The House divided on Hon. Mrs. Caplan's motion for second reading of Bill 147, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes

Ballinger, Black, Bossy, Bradley, Campbell, Caplan, Chiarelli, Cleary, Collins, Conway, Daigeler, Dietsch, Eakins, Elston, Faubert, Fleet, Fontaine, Fulton, Furlong, Grandmaitre, Haggerty, Kanter, Kerrio, Keyes, LeBourdais, Leone, Lipsett, MacDonald, Matrundola, McClelland, McGuinty, McLeod, Miclash, Miller, Morin, Neumann, Nicholas, O'Neil, H., O'Neill, Y., Patten, Poole, Ramsay, Reycraft,

Riddell, Smith, D. W., Sola, South, Stoner, Tatham, Ward, Wong, Wrye.

Nays

Breaugh, Bryden, Charlton, Cooke, D. S., Cousens, Eves, Farnan, Hampton, Harris, Jackson, Johnston, R. F., Laughren, Mackenzie, McCague, McLean, Pollock, Pouliot, Rae, B., Reville, Runciman, Villeneuve, Wiseman.

Ayes 52; nays 22.

Bill ordered for standing committee on social development.

House in committee of the whole.

PLANNING AMENDMENT ACT (continued)

Consideration of Bill 128, An Act to amend the Planning Act, 1983.

Section 2:

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. R. F. Johnston moves that section 2 of the said act be amended by striking out "and" at the end of clause (j) and by adding thereto the following clause:

"(k) The protection of the public from the possible threat to its health, social fabric and environment inherent in the production of nuclear weapons material."

1606

The committee divided on Mr. R. F. Johnston's amendment to section 2, which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes 18; Nays 60.

Section 2 agreed to.

Section 1 agreed to.

Bill, as amended, ordered to be reported.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Conway, the committee of the whole reported one bill with a certain amendment.

BUDGET DEBATE (continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: Let me be absolutely clear about this. This is the budget debate that we are resuming and that is why we are here this week instead of having committees doing the important work of Bill 162 and other things, and the select committee. It is because we have to continue the budget debate today. I just want a clarification that this is why we are here.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I would like to speak to the point of order by suggesting that our good friend the member for Scarborough West talk to his House leader, because I am going to show uncustomary restraint in not embarrassing a friend.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. That is not a point of order.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: By the same token, that would mean the House leader would in fact wish to mention the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations bills and the 40-odd pounds of amendments we received today.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. We shall proceed with the debate. Do any members wish to participate in the debate?

Mr. McClelland: It is a pleasure for me to continue the debate on the budget and to draw to the attention of members opposite, indeed, of the people of this province, some of what I sincerely believe to be outstanding accomplishments of this government over the past few years, as reflected in the budget of last April.

There are a number of points of discussion on the budget, but I wanted to begin by taking a look at some of the things that are important to my riding. My riding of Brampton North is an area of tremendously high growth. We have a growth projected this year of about 16 per cent, and into next year a projected growth of some 19 per cent.

With that comes tremendous pressures, and we have tremendous diversity across this province. My friend the member for Brantford (Mr. Neumann), who has already spoken on this matter in the past, has talked about the restructuring of the economy in his riding. As we face those kinds of pressures and the government responds to that, we have areas like Brampton where there is not so much a restructuring as a development for the future.

We have the pleasure of having virtually no unemployment in our area, and I think this government has shared a part in that. Since 1985 in this province there have been 463,000 jobs created. We would be the first to suggest that is not all simply a product of this government and our very well-thought-out and good fiscal policy; it is largely a factor resulting from world economic growth and development. The North American economy is generally strong.

But having said all that, I think Ontario is at the forefront of economic growth and development. We have the opportunity in this province to seize this moment of fiscal prosperity and begin to mold and shape and use those resources wisely for the future for our children and our children's

children. We can begin to lay the foundation for the kind of province we have and look forward to passing on to our families in the future.

In the last year alone it is estimated that some 180,000 jobs were created in Ontario. We are pleased with the expanding job opportunities, because that does not happen automatically. One of the reasons new investment is attracted to Ontario is that we have invested heavily in our communities, schools, hospitals, colleges, universities and highways.

If I can relate that to what has happened in Brampton, and I look at the tremendous growth in population and the tremendous stresses on our school system, I want to talk for a moment about what we have done in education and talk about the capital expenditures our government has provided in the area of education.

We have seen in the past few years tremendous pressures on the capital requirements of school boards. There are ridings like mine where there is just a tremendous shortage of space for children in our schools. We recognize that. We inherited a government that had sadly neglected capital investment in the area of education over the past number of years.

In 1985 we began to look at that. Last year's budget began to set out a plan that was long-term, thoughtful, and provided a foundation we can build on not only this year but into the future.

As members know, we looked at a budget last year of some \$3.9 billion in education. The Minister of Education (Mr. Ward) last year announced \$381 million for capital construction. That is a significant achievement. That is the first instalment of a \$900-million commitment our government has made over the next three years.

We did that in 1988 and set out a plan. For the first time, I believe, in many, many years, we looked at the need for capital funding in education and not only looked at the one shot, the one time for this year, but looked at what we are going to do next year and the year beyond. It is a pattern that we have established and I am sure we will continue.

It does not take a lot of wisdom to sit back and say that if we are going to provide adequately for the needs of our children and the children in the communities we represent, we must do so thoughtfully and wisely and carefully.

I suppose there are a number of areas we could look at in terms of government funding where we might say that there would never be enough money. Certainly the areas of health care and education and social services come to mind immediately.

I suppose we can never put a ceiling on how much money we would want to invest in our young people. Indeed, it has been said, and I think it bears repeating, although it has been said so often that it sounds trite, but it is not trite at all to say that the young people we have in Ontario are this jurisdiction's greatest resource, and I think how we deal with that and how we invest with that speaks volumes about a government. Our government has seen the need to wisely and carefully and prudently think into the future.

Having said that, I draw to the members' attention again that \$381 million was committed last year to capital expenditures. In total, that three-year grant that we announced in the budget will enable us to build schools that will create 110,000 new student spaces. That is something I am very pleased about, as I consider my responsibilities as a member for my riding.

I also think that is important, if I can be a little bit selfish for a moment, when I consider the situation that my little fellow is in. I have a boy who is almost three years of age. Right now he is in a situation, because of what I believe is the total neglect of the previous government—and I say it with the greatest respect to my friends who are serving opposite, but I think that they cannot with any sincerity look back at the record and say that there was any planning in terms of capital expenditures—that in two years' time, when my little guy starts to go to school, he would have a 45- to 50-minute bus ride one way and a 45- to 50-minute bus ride back.

I see that as problematic because he is one of literally thousands of students in the Brampton area who are faced with that situation. People have come to me and visited me in my constituency office. I have spoken to parents and teachers, I have spoken to educators and concerned citizens who say: "What are we doing about capital allocations for schools? Why don't we have school spaces for our children?"

One of the reasons is that schools cannot be built overnight. We knew a long time ago that there were certain areas of this province that would have high growth, and that was not addressed. Shortly after taking the reins of government, the Peterson government said, "We have to deal with that and we have to provide the kinds of structures, the kind of financial base to do wise and long-term planning."

I look forward to the fact that the school boards of Peel and Dufferin-Peel, the two school boards that principally are responsible for the education jurisdiction in my riding, now have some tools to begin to work for some planning in capital

construction. Yes, they would say to me and they would say to members of this House that they do not have enough money. We recognize that, but there is never enough in that sense. We have taken some very concrete steps and have made a commitment I think we can be very proud of.

Dollars are not the only thing that really are demonstrative, but we are talking about the budget and I want to focus in on that for a minute and put it in terms of comparative figures.

With respect to education, when we took office, we first doubled, then we tripled, and in this past year, in this past budget of 1988, we quadrupled the amount of money that we have spent on renovating and building new schools. That pattern will continue and I, as a member of this government, am very proud of that fact and proud to be associated with that kind of demonstrated commitment to education.

It seems to me a shame that the official opposition, which speaks so proudly of its commitment to the finer things in life in our society and always speaks with such passionate self-righteousness about having the only answers, the only solutions, is not even here to participate in this debate and that there is not one member from the official opposition, the New Democratic Party, here to participate today as we discuss the foundation of government, the budget. Every ministry that is represented by my colleagues in government and cabinet and the responsibilities that they have in exercising ministerial responsibilities turns on the budget allocation and the use of those moneys, the moneys of the people of Ontario.

1620

After all, when all is said and done, the money that we talk about when we talk about the budget is the money of the men and women, and indeed the boys and girls, of Ontario. I often talk to schoolchildren in exercising my responsibilities. One of the highlights, I think, for all members here is to have schoolchildren come to visit them or to visit in schools and discuss the political process with students. I am quick to remind them they are taxpayers too. Schoolchildren, when they go in and buy items, pay sales tax. When they spend their allowance money or their paper-route money, or work in a grocery store or wherever they might be working, they are contributing to the budget of this province.

As I talk about education and how that is important to me, as a father and as a representative of a community that is growing, I find it very distressful that my friends from the NDP, the official opposition, cannot be here today to

engage in this very worthwhile and vitally important debate in terms of the operation of this province and this government.

I have touched briefly on some of the issues with respect to education. I have had the privilege of serving in the last few months in the Ministry of the Environment as the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley), who I think has done an outstanding job. I think his record as an environmentalist speaks for itself.

Let me touch very briefly on some of the things we have done.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I hear that you are responsible for his attire.

Mr. McClelland: The House leader says, and I say this with some humility, that I have even had some positive impact on my minister in terms of his investment in the haberdashery trade in this province. If that is a contributing factor to the budget, we are delighted that I have been able to be of some assistance in that regard.

Let me talk about the environment and what we have done as a government. Since 1985, this government has made a commitment, not only in terms of how it was going to deal with the environment but how it was going to demonstrate that with dollars and cents.

In relative terms, the environment is ranked at the very top of people's concerns. Polls tell us—and none of us here, of course, believe in polls as such—but we are told that 89 per cent of the people in this province believe that they are impacted directly, their quality of life is impacted by the environment.

Our government was aware of that before polls began to tell us that. In 1985, when we took the reins of power, this government said that we were going to address environment in a very real way and begin to deal with it with some practical solutions. Rather than responding to crises, we were going to take some leadership. We were going to put in tough regulations.

We did that. We put in regulations that we were told were going to pull the rug out from industry in this province. That did not happen. Industry got on board and it co-operated and Ontario is now one of the leading jurisdictions. That has been demonstrated even last week, with the leadership that we have shown in terms of the announcement made about chlorofluorocarbons and trying to deal with the problem of the ozone layer.

But as we talk about the kinds of programs we have, they hinge on the budget and the commit-

ment that has been made by this government to the Ministry of the Environment.

Since the 1984-85 fiscal year, the year before we took power, to this past fiscal year, 1988, the budget in the Ministry of the Environment has increased some 51 per cent. As a result of that increase, we have been able to do many things we wanted to do. We have many, many more things we want to do. There are countless problems across this province. There are some 396 or so landfill sites that require attention, a legacy left by the previous government. We have to deal with that; and again, with the resources that we have available, we are beginning to do that.

Let me talk about some of the initiatives that have come as a result of the environmental budget in 1988. We committed \$426 million, an increase of 51 per cent, as I said. We have also had some additional allocations that bring that number up slightly. Undoubtedly, as we go into the next year, we will be continuing that budgetary and monetary commitment. I am confident that the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon), in his wisdom, will continue to invest the money of the people of this province in that most important area.

Because of that financial commitment that we made, as a government, that increase representing over \$425 billion—\$425 million—last year—I know the minister would be delighted if I could comment on that little misspeak, that little slip of the lip; I said \$426 billion. I can just see that the Minister of the Environment would be walking about nine feet off the ground right now if he thought that was at all a possibility.

The \$426 million is significant. That is demonstrative of an increase. As I said, money does not really mean everything in and of itself, but let me tell my friends here about some of the things that has represented.

As a result of that budgetary commitment, we have introduced the municipal-industrial strategy for abatement, otherwise known as MISA. We have seen, together with our commitment financially, that industry, municipalities and regions can work hand in hand in addressing this very critical issue, the area of the environment, as we begin to control emissions from industry and work with them to ensure the environment we live in and leave for our children is an environment we can be proud of and feel comfortable in.

Last summer we read about the problems with the sewage flowing into Lake Ontario in this immediate area, and indeed problems with Great Lakes pollution generally. We committed money

to beaches cleanup so the people in our cities will have recreation facilities near at hand and be able to enjoy the tremendous resources we have available to us in terms of the natural recreation area of the Great Lakes.

Part and parcel of that is our need for water and sewage infrastructure commitment. As our municipalities grow, we have tremendous pressures in terms of dealing with the water requirements and sewage treatment. In addition to that, we have the deterioration of sewage facilities across our province, particularly in the older established areas of the province.

I know there is sometimes some danger with flipping to other jurisdictions but I am reminded, as I talk about the water and sewage infrastructure problem, of part of a show I saw Sunday night on 60 Minutes. Notwithstanding the fact that they were speaking about an American city—the Big Apple, New York—they began in that program to review some of the problems resulting from the breakdown in the sewage infrastructure: pipes breaking and some of the tremendous difficulty there.

We cannot allow that to happen in this province. We have recognized that and we have begun to ask, as the Ministry of the Environment and as this government looks at its budgetary policy: How can we begin to do some investment now so that we are not doing crisis intervention down the road? In fact, many of the things we are doing and many of the difficulties we have as a government—I talked about education and I talked a little about environment in terms of crisis intervention—is that we are beginning to pay the cost for some of the oversights of the past, and we cannot afford to do that for our succeeding generations.

The Fram oil-filter commercial says very clearly, “You can pay me a little now or a lot later.” We, as a government, have seen the responsibility to deal with those problems, to deal with addressing situations that need tremendous cleaning up in the environment. We also recognize that we have to plan and look long-term to ensure we are not doing the same thing and passing on problems to those who come after us.

Budget is a very interesting process. When the budget was first announced last April, I had a number of people call me. One of the things, predictably, they wanted to know was how this was going to impact on them. What would the result of this budget be? Was it going to cost them more money? Inevitably, I had to say: “For the most part, it will cost you a bit more. The net

dollars in your pocket at the end of the month, because of some changes in our federal income tax structure, may result in you having a little more take-home pay but, yes, you’ll be paying more money into the coffers of the Treasurer,” the member for Brant-Haldimand, who is known by most people, if not all people, in this province.

As our parsimonious Treasurer came to us as the people of this province, as members we had to go back to our people in our communities and explain to them what was happening with their money. As I talked to people, I found they were pleased, not to pay more money but to know that that money was being given an allocation of priority in areas they felt were important.

1630

I want to point out to members opposite—and again I say it is a shame that our friends from the New Democratic Party are not here to join in this debate today—to my friend from the Conservative Party who is here and my friends in government, my colleagues who are here to participate in this debate, they will know and they will want to know that 80 per cent of additional budgetary spending in the budget we are discussing went to health care, education, housing and social services.

In each and every one of those areas, it seems to me that none of us in this House, regardless of our partisan persuasion or affiliation, would say we were not prepared to spend more money. I guess in the final analysis the question is who is paying it and how are we going to allocate it, because the pressures are so great and there are so many things we all want to do. People are well-meaning and have great ideas of how they would like to spend money, and we have to balance that. There will always be the need for more, but we are seeking to prioritize the new expenditures we must make to deal with the pressures we have in our community.

I am going to be a little bit parochial for a moment and talk about Brampton and how the budget impacts my community. I think I would be forgiven for saying I live in one of the greatest communities in the province, notwithstanding the previous member. I am not talking about my colleague the member for Brampton South (Mr. Callahan), but the member before him, who more often than not wore the same colour of tie I am wearing today; I usually wear a red tie. He and I are both football fans, I might mention. We both remain Argonauts fans even to this day. I think it is important that people in this province

know there are similarities in the representation held a decade ago and currently in this province.

I want to talk about Brampton and how it has changed. A Premier formerly represented the community of around 20,000 people that I moved to with my family in 1964. That riding has now been split and there are 95,000-plus people in the riding of Brampton North. As I said earlier, the projected growth is 16 per cent next year and 18 per cent the year following.

How do we begin to deal with those pressures? How do we begin to address the needs that will create in terms of transportation, education, which I have already touched on briefly, and the environment, which touches us all from all parts of the province, even in Durham, particularly Durham-York?

I want to make mention of the fact that the member for Durham-York (Mr. Ballinger) also has some of these same problems. As he encourages me in this debate and offers his helpful comments from time to time, I want to acknowledge the fact that I recognize that he too has many of the problems I face in Brampton: the need for more. I think we could say in our communities, and the member will correct if I am wrong, "We need more money for..." and fill in the blanks. Those are the pressures we face as members from growing areas.

But our government has said we are going to do that responsibly and we are going to begin to look at some long-term planning. I have mentioned how we have done that in a few areas.

I want to talk about what drives the engine of our economy in this province. There are those who will always say, "Spend, spend, spend." I talked about the areas of my concern and interest when I came into government. One of the areas of significant concern was the area of social services. I have worked in the area of social services for a while.

I was talking about Brampton and the growth we face. I want to talk very briefly about some of the things happening in Ontario that I think are represented in the community of Brampton. We do not have a whole lot of big employers. We have the Jeep-Eagle-Chrysler plant which is one of the major employers. We have Northern Telecom Canada Ltd., which is actually situated in the riding of my colleague the member for Brampton South. Apart from that, most of our business and most of our industry is smaller in scale and, with some exceptions, tends to be high-technology and fairly modern.

When we looked at the budget, we as a government sat down and said, "As we look into

the 1990s and to the year 2000 and beyond, we are going to have some major issues of concern. We are going to have the economy, the environment and social issues," and we wanted to address those.

How were we going to address the economy? We brought along with that the Premier's Council. The 1986 throne speech announced that the Premier's Council was given a mandate to steer Ontario into the technological leadership of the future. There are 28 members of the council and it is chaired by the Premier (Mr. Peterson) himself. He has drawn together, as we know, prominent leaders from all facets of society.

In its first report, the council sat down and said: "We have to become more self-sufficient. In the past, we've become dependent on natural resources, branch plants and so on. We've enjoyed prosperity." That, in fact, was the case in Brampton. But they also recognized that lasting economic growth could be achieved only through the development of Ontario-based technology companies that could compete internationally. So they recommended tax incentives for research and development. They recommended worker retraining and measures to stimulate investment.

The Premier's Council also came together and said that we had to look at building an industrial foundation that will take us worldwide. What did we do with those suggestions? The budget that we are talking about today took a look at those suggestions and said, "How can we address that: not only by putting money at a problem today, but investing for our future."

We looked at an allowance of some \$45 million per year for research and development. We looked at the need to take the personnel that we have in our companies, in our industries across this province. We made a commitment of \$38 million over the next five years to address personnel retraining and to bring them up to speed in terms of high-tech efficiency.

We looked at the procurement aspect of industry and how we are going to address that. We said that we needed some fairly major financial commitments. As a result, we put \$25 million over the next five years; all very important parts of our budget as we began to build into the future. Budgets address today and, in some respects, they address yesterday, as we deal with some of the crises that have arisen: the shortage in spaces for schoolchildren, the need to upgrade our road transportation, the need to deal with environmental concerns and deal with some

of those crisis situations and some of those time bombs that are buried all across this province.

We recognize, too, that the money we have as a province, that we generate as taxpayers, each and every one of us in this House and each and every person in the province, comes from the engine of that manufacturing and industrial base that drives the economy of this province.

We looked at what we wanted to do and we said that we needed new machinery and equipment to keep abreast, and we gave a 15 per cent tax deduction on that. We said that we wanted to support annual investment in the area of manufacturing to the order of \$6 billion. We looked at the manufacturing investment incentive in total and said that we would commit \$120 million to that over this fiscal year and undoubtedly into the future as well, as we see the need for our province, with all of the stresses and strains of competing in a global economy as we never have before, the need to become self-sufficient, the need to move in high technology into the year 2000 and beyond. We said that requires a budgetary commitment, and we responded to that with some \$120 million in that initiative.

There are so many other areas that I wanted to talk about, as I think about my community. As we have grown over the past years and as we look at the projected growth, we recognize that the manufacturing base must be maintained, must be upgraded and that we have to bring in new manufacturing, new investment and new high-technology support so that we can have the kind of financial independence that we want in our communities across the province.

One of the investments that we have with that is in the area of roads and highway transportation. We took an increase of \$100 million over the 1980-87 transportation allocation and said in this 1988-89 budget that we had to address the need to upgrade transportation. Now, \$100 million does not seem like a lot of money. I am told that as I drive north on Highway 410 to go home in the evenings, that is costing somewhere in the order of over \$1 million per kilometre.

I know the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Fulton) will give me some fine-tuning on those figures if I am a little bit low, and undoubtedly I am in this present age. Be that as it may, that \$100 million translates into I do not know how many kilometres of superhighway, but we said that we needed to do that. As communities begin to grow and begin to build a financial base, there are areas across this province that need a transportation system to support them. We said

that was something we needed to do and we did it.

There are other areas where the budget touches so very directly on people's lives. Oftentimes when people get elected—and I have spoken to people in my constituency even today and they wonder about how we react as members of this House to some of the problems and situations that they face.

1640

As I discussed a very serious situation with a gentleman this morning, I was able to tell him that is something that impacts on my life. He was talking about the area of health care. He talked about a stressful situation that he faced because one of his loved ones was in need of health care. He was concerned that maybe we, as a government, were not giving the kind of resources and allocating the kinds of funds to the health care system that he would like to have seen.

I spoke with him about some of the concerns that I share with him as a father and a son of parents who, although very young at heart, are slowly ageing. I say "slowly" in case my folks are watching. They too will have needs in terms of their health care requirements that will increase over the years to come.

Mr. Ballinger: You just lost your Christmas present.

Mr. McClelland: My friend the member for Durham-York says I have just lost my Christmas present, but I am sure mom and dad will forgive me for saying that.

I think it is important that people realize that those of us who are members here are parents or husbands and wives. We are friends. We are moms and dads. Some of my colleagues in this House are grandparents. We have loved ones, friends, family and neighbours. Each one is touched in a very dramatic, real way almost daily by the kinds of things we talk about when we talk about budget.

I am very concerned about some of the things that have been said in this House. I understand the nature of government. I understand the nature of opposition. It is their responsibility to be the gadfly, to make sure that we are held accountable. Indeed, that is their responsibility, and I am certain, in goodwill, they seek to fulfil that responsibility to the best of their ability.

But I think sometimes there is a bit of overzealousness, and I have a concern. I do not want to even suggest that anybody is intentionally misrepresenting any facts at all, but I have often heard things like "cutbacks in education." Indeed, today I heard that brought up in question

period. As we talk about the budget, I think it is very important that we talk about health care and what this government has done and point out some very concrete facts about health care.

Let's talk for a moment about what has happened. I look at the pressures in Brampton North, as we have the need, I believe very clearly, for expanded community-based delivery of health care to maximize the resources that we do have available.

I want people to keep in mind that we spent close to \$13 billion in this last budget. That represents almost 50 per cent of Ontario's social service spending.

I put it in a different way when I talk to people in my community. I say to them: "You and I pay income tax. Every year that you and I pay income tax, all of us in Ontario pool all of our income tax, and all of that money does not address the total budget requirements for the Ministry of Health." It is only when we take additional revenues from other sources and supplement all of the income tax that you, Mr. Speaker, and I and all the people that we represent pay that we cover the health care costs.

We have made a demonstrated commitment in terms of the allocation of resources. Yes, we have to be creative. We have to be on the cutting edge of making sure those resources are used to their maximum potential, that we are efficient, that we are creative in terms of new health care delivery, that we work co-operatively with all of the deliverers of health care.

We have taken some major initiatives in terms of beginning to maximize the use of health care in our hospitals, working with nurses, working with joint management committees to make sure that we get the most bang for our buck, because men and women and boys and girls in this province are putting plenty of money into the health care system. In our budget, the Treasurer has demonstrated our commitment: \$13 billion, more money per capita than virtually any other jurisdiction in the free world.

In this past year alone, the Ministry of Health has provided funds to aid in the prevention and treatment of heart and circulatory diseases. We are talking about health care here, not just sickness treatment. The Ministry of Health and we as a government have said we have a responsibility, in terms of addressing health care concerns and lifestyle issues, to be forward-thinking again and begin to create lifestyle awareness so that we can be preventive in terms of our health care.

We have allocated an additional \$5.5 million to the Ontario Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation in this province. We have launched a two-year, \$7-million advertising and public information campaign to help stop the spread of the dreadful disease AIDS, acquired immune deficiency syndrome. This is an advertising campaign to begin to deal with that.

The Ministry of Health has announced a lifestyle campaign. With our slogan, which sounds kind of catchy—and I do not treat it lightly—we say "Health—It's a great feeling." The rationale for that is clear. It is a lot cheaper to prevent sickness than to treat it, yet we do treat sickness in terms of dollars and cents. We are putting tremendous resources into health care in this province.

As we look towards the future and as we look towards the past, we know that we are addressing the kind of province that our young people are going to grow up in; the kind of province for which I am confident our government will continue to show leadership over many years to come.

We have so many areas. I know every minister could wisely spend additional funds. As we talk about the budget and the kinds of dollars and cents we have put into it, I think what we have said as a government is that as we address current needs, as we address past problems, we also have to invest considerably in prevention for the future.

I want to talk briefly about an area that is extremely important to me. People ask me how I got involved in the political process. It is a long story and I will not bore the members or my friend the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (Mr. Villeneuve).

Mr. Villeneuve: You are not disappointed though, are you?

Mr. McClelland: Not terribly. I am not disappointed at all, I say to my friend.

I did not wake up one day and decide that I was going to get involved in the political process. It is something that I suppose, as with many of us here, kind of evolved.

Mr. Sola: You went for a walk on a stormy night.

Mr. McClelland: I went for a walk on a stormy night and I came back and said that the world was unfolding as it should.

I was involved for a number of years in the frontline—if I can use the word without any term of irony—delivery of social services, working with kids in trouble with the law. I got involved in the political process because it seemed to me,

as I was working with some of those young men and women, that they were involved in a vicious circle. I wanted to be involved, I felt, in a meaningful way, where we could begin to invest and ensure that the circle was broken.

I think our government has demonstrated that kind of mentality, a sense that we want to eliminate problems before they begin. We do not want just to respond to crises, we do not want to just throw money into problems; we want to invest the dollars wisely and carefully to prevent crises from occurring in the future to the extent that we can.

One of the areas I want to talk about for a very brief moment is what we did with the investigation on illegal use of drugs and substance abuse. The member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay (Mr. Black) was commissioned by the Premier as a one-person task force to look into prevention or to begin to deal with the problem of substance abuse.

I think that is demonstrative of this government's ability, within the prescribed budget, to take funds and resources and target them at timely issues. Things are not etched in stone. We are flexible and we want to be responsive.

I look at that report and the some 29 recommendations that came out of it. Even if I spoke for one minute about each one of those recommendations, it would use up a good portion of our time remaining. But at the end of the day, what I want to say about that report is that it is indicative of how we use our resources wisely.

The Minister of Education responded to that report. He said he would put programs into our schools this September; not capital funding, but programs, additional funds for programs that would begin to address the need to educate our young people on substance abuse and on lifestyles which would prevent these senseless tragedies from occurring in the future.

When a budget is presented, the natural inclination for people is to say, "How much is this going to cost me?" I understand that, because I pay taxes too. I think what we want to do as members of this Legislative Assembly is not only ask that question—which is an important question to ask, and I know my friend opposite, the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, if he chooses to comment today, will comment about how much it will cost us—but I think the greater question is where we are putting that money. How are we investing it in the lives of men and women and boys and girls across this province? How are we investing it, not only in their lives but in structures, the capital programs,

to provide the infrastructure in our communities so that those programs can be delivered in an effective way?

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Over the decade ahead of us, much of what we realize and see in our communities, much of the quality of life we enjoy, will be a result of the investment we make today and with this budget we are discussing.

In the final analysis, there are many things that impact our society. Government has a role. It is, I think, a marginal role from time to time, but a very important role in very important areas like health care and education. In the final analysis, we cannot control everything that happens, but I think what we can do is demonstrate our commitment to certain areas financially in how we use those financial resources.

I am proud of the record of this government. I say without apology that over this past year we have strongly reinforced our commitment to a clean environment, and we have strongly reinforced in this 1988-89 budget our commitment to capital funding for education, to provide those student spaces that are required.

We are prepared to invest to generate the industry and the manufacturing base that will support us into the future. We have done what we believe is prudent and wise in terms of taking some moneys now—paying a little now—so we can avoid that big bill down the road for some of the preventive areas in the area of environment.

As we continue this debate on the budget, and as other members, my colleagues in this House, continue to discuss what we have done, I want to say to the people in Ontario, to you, Mr. Speaker, to my colleagues here and to the people of my riding that we, as members of this House, have a responsibility to look at how we spend peoples' money and hope that we will do that wisely and carefully. I know the Treasurer is very reluctant to spend money. I know he does that because of his sense of being careful, wise and frugal with the resources of this province, of the men and women, and boys and girls of this province.

I think one of the things that is indicative of that kind of commitment and that kind of demonstration of fiscal responsibility is that in this past budget we had the lowest net cash requirements in the past 19 years of government. In real dollars and cents, it is hard for us to believe that when Mr. Robarts was Premier, that was the last time we had a net cash requirement as low as we have had in this current budget. I think that speaks volumes about the leadership and the

kind of fiscal responsibility our Treasurer has demonstrated, together with his colleagues in cabinet and under the leadership of our Premier.

As we continue in this debate, I am proud to speak on behalf of our government and to speak very favourably about this budget. As I have said in passing comments, and I mention it from time to time, none of us likes to pay more money in taxes. I think there comes a point where we have to say no to increased spending, but there is a time as well to invest.

I think that we have invested in this past budget and that we have invested wisely and carefully. Although our budget went up significantly, here are the kinds of things we spent the money on: health care, the care of our loved ones and our friends; providing some long-term solutions so that we are not responding to crisis situations a decade from now or even a few years from now; beginning lifestyle changes; beginning to help people understand their responsibilities to care for themselves; dealing with the environment in a very meaningful way; providing capital expenditures for school spaces so that our children have the proper spaces to go to school, so that we do not have the situation years from now that we have now in my community, where in many schools over half of the students are in portables. We do not want that to be a pattern and an expectation for years to come. We have begun to deal with that as we begin to deal with those problems.

The same can be said in the area of housing. There are the tremendous pressures we have in housing as this city grows, as the southwestern Ontario population balloons, and the impact that has and how our government has addressed that. I am sure some of my other friends will speak to that.

In the area of social services, an area that is very near and dear to the hearts of many of us here, an area I feel particularly strongly about, we have the demonstrated leadership of our Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) in being innovative in child care and working with community groups to maximize the dollars available.

I am proud of the budget. Like every other new member in this House, when the budget came out—it was the first for those of us who were first elected in 1987—I wondered how it was going to wash back home. When I met with the local board of trade, I wondered how it was going to wash. When I met with the social assistance groups in my community and with the Brampton-

Mississauga and District Labour Council, I wondered how it was going to sell to them.

But as I spoke with them and as I began to share with them some of the facts about the requirements we had in terms of capital needs, some of the requirements we had in terms of the programming needs we saw in this great province, many of them—I would be foolish to say all of them accepted this idea—said they were pleased with the way that we were beginning to get handles on the expenditures, that we were directing it, that we had minimized the cash requirements. Again, the cash requirements were lower in the 1988-89 budget than they had ever been in close to 20 years.

In conclusion, I asked my good friend and seatmate to my right the member for Ottawa South (Mr. McGuinty) if it would be appropriate to tell a little anecdote. Being a relatively new member in the House, I am always a little bit sensitive and do not want to offend the propriety and decorum of the House, because it is truly a great institution, but I felt it appropriate to share a little story that I think the people of Ontario would be very pleased to hear about the way the Treasurer handles money.

I should say at the outset that this is perhaps using a little bit of imagination, but picture on his death bed a miserly old gentleman who had some million dollars or so tucked under his mattress. He called the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan), the Minister of Community and Social Services and the Treasurer and said to them:

"I've always wanted to prove that you can take it with you. I have this vast sum of money tucked under my bed and I want to take it with me. I am pledging to each one of you that I am going to give you a third, approximately \$333,000 each. I am going to put it in envelopes and I expect the three of you will show up at my funeral and deposit them along with my coffin when the good Lord calls me home."

As happens to all of us, I am told, in due course the dear old gentleman passed away and indeed the three ministers attended the funeral. They deposited three envelopes and were returning back to their respective duties, undoubtedly to a cabinet meeting of some sort.

The Minister of Community and Social Services, known as the conscience of Queen's Park, was looking a little bit shaky. He said to his two colleagues the Minister of Health and the Treasurer: "I've got to tell you there is a child care centre in my riding that requires \$100,000. I just could not get the money from you,

Treasurer, so I took \$100,000 and put only \$233,000 in the envelope in the grave."

The Minister of Health, challenged by the revelation and the confession of the Minister of Community and Social Services, likewise said: "Actually, there was a tremendous need for a new health facility in my riding. I took out \$250,000 and deposited only the remaining \$83,000 in the envelope. I gave the money to the community health centre."

They looked at the Treasurer and he said: "I am really disappointed. I put the money into the Treasury of the province, the entire \$333,000, and I wrote a cheque and put the cheque in for the full amount."

With that little bit of levity, I want to tell members that I think the Treasurer has been very, very careful with the money of this province. He is known to be very slow to spend. I know that, as I hear my friends in cabinet talk about how they would like more money for the great many good ideas they have, the many good ideas that come from people all across the province, from groups and special interest groups about needs we want to address. They recognize the responsibility of balancing those needs with careful planning and careful expenditures.

We cannot spend as we would want to, but I think we are spending as we feel is necessary and spending wisely. Accordingly, I am very pleased to stand and speak very favourably of this budget and join in this debate. I want to thank the members for their indulgence in hearing my comments today.

1700

The Deputy Speaker: Are there questions and comments on the member's statement?

Mr. Villeneuve: To the member for Brampton North (Mr. McClelland), just a short comment on his very eloquent presentation. He is certainly a member I enjoy chatting with and joking with. However, he neglected to mention some of the very major, complicated things that have been the fallout from the so-called tight-fisted, parsimonious farmer-Treasurer of this province.

We are going, almost on a daily basis, from crisis to crisis in the health care delivery system of this province. We have numerous people who phone us and phone the official opposition stating names and situations that are most dreadful. It is a situation that I do not recall happened prior to this government taking over. I am not quite sure when the whole thing fell apart, but quite obviously we have a major crisis in the health delivery system of this province.

I know the member for Brampton North is the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of the Environment and I congratulate him for that. However, within that ministry, I have a constituent who has attempted to get approval of a waste disposal system, a commercial operation, since June 1987. As a matter of fact, this particular operation has to have the septic tank pumped out on a daily basis, at a very high daily cost. We are still waiting for the Ministry of the Environment to provide its okay, the green light, on a system that has been engineered. It is a situation that is very distressing for yours truly. I was not able to get it on a priority list and we are still waiting. We are in February 1989 and the original submission was done in June 1988.

At the Ontario Good Roads Association, we have all the municipalities of Ontario saying our road system is deteriorating to the point where we must have additional funding and this government has not seen fit to do that; it simply flat-lined its budget.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. Villeneuve: I could go on considerably, but those are a few of the things that were not touched on by the member.

Mr. Ballinger: I want to take this opportunity to personally congratulate the member for Brampton North. Along with the member for Brampton North, I am new to the Legislature. I think the chat this afternoon from the member was most insightful, straightforward and I think reflects the type of representatives who were elected in September 1987.

I am always amazed, with the greatest respect to this wonderful institution. What we received from the member for Brampton North was a very straightforward, insightful discussion on his perception of the 1988 budget. What we had follow was a philosophy of the opposition. They get up—it does not really matter about the good things—all they ever want to chat about are the bad things.

In the member for Brampton North's case, he talked about some of the really fabulous things this government is doing. We have addressed many problems we inherited as a government since taking over in 1985. It is really interesting. We were here at the time when we raised taxes to address the issues of the flat-lining, the under-budgeting and underfunding we received in this province for years; and yet as soon as the member sits down, a member of the opposition stands up and he makes the most interesting arguments contrary to what the member for Brampton North expressed in the Legislature today.

I am always intrigued by the opposition members, because they always want to have it both ways. They want it coming in and they want it going out.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: No, that's the Liberal Party.

Mr. Ballinger: The member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. D. S. Cooke) is one of those wonderful gentlemen whom I have the greatest respect for, but he wants it coming in and going out as well. Since he has now come in, I thought I would add that in.

I want to compliment the member for Brampton North for being such an honest and straightforward participant in the debate on behalf of the 1988 budget.

Ms. Poole: I too would like to commend the member for Brampton North on his simply excellent speech. He very eloquently talked about the \$900-million commitment to capital that the government has made and what it is going to mean for his son.

I would like to touch on a few things that have had great meaning for the people in my riding and that have been very welcome in the area of education, notably, I think, the reduction in class sizes in grades 1 and 2. This has been overwhelmingly welcomed, I think, all across this province.

The ministry's goal is to reduce class size to 20 in grades 1 and 2 by September 1990. I am really pleased to say that for boards like the Metropolitan Toronto boards that have had the initiative over the years to reduce class size on their own, are not going to be penalized. The government has decided to compensate those boards for what they have put into reducing class size over the years and the boards are free to use that on various areas of education.

One other very welcome initiative is the renewed focus on science. I have to confess science was never quite my forte in school.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: What was?

Ms. Poole: Oh, I had many fortes, I say to the member for Windsor-Riverside, but I cannot go into them at this time. Science was not one of them. I think my children will have a much better education in science because of the policy initiatives of this government for the increased funding in textbooks, teacher training and many other areas.

The final one I would like to touch on is what has been done in the area of computer programming. More than \$40 million were committed last year for enhancing the computer program-

ming in our schools. These are all aspects that are going to mean my children and the members' children have a much better education and they are very welcomed as initiatives of this government.

Mr. Neumann: I want to commend the member for Brampton North for his very good speech on the economy of Ontario and the good things done through the budget. I also want to thank him for mentioning, at the beginning of his speech, the restructuring of the economy in our community in the city of Brantford.

Members are probably aware that Brantford has come through some rough times in the 1980s, with major layoffs in the industries that produce farm equipment. But through community effort, a major restructuring has been under way over the past several years and things have turned around quite nicely.

In fact, building permits are up quite high, unemployment has been reduced, the number of people on welfare has been halved in the past four years and construction is occurring across a broad sector. In the private sector, in industry, in housing, in the commercial area and in many areas the restructuring of the economy is proceeding quite well.

The government of Ontario has contributed to this through some major commitments. We have a commitment of \$5.5 million towards an international telecommunications discovery centre that will become the base for a tourism industry in the future. Recently, the Premier visited our community to announce \$10 million for a new industrial park where we are going to be taking mined-out gravel pits and producing a long-range strategy to turn this area into new industrial land for the city, for long-term planning. I think this is an excellent example of making good use of these areas, as we will be talking about in our aggregates bill.

As well, a major study is under way to bring 1,000 to 1,500 acres on stream for new housing lands. We have heard the opposition comment on housing problems in Brantford. Really, we are taking a long-range view and these problems will be solved through good planning and a very good contribution from this government.

The Deputy Speaker: Does the member wish to respond?

Mr. McClelland: I would love to spend another 50 minutes talking with my friend the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry about health care. I want to say, very briefly, that a crisis did not suddenly happen in the past couple of years.

For some of the pressures we are facing today and facing with a long-term look at meaningful solutions, addressing the area of changing technology, addressing the area of an ageing population, we are beginning to look at long-term solutions. So we are not responding to crises. That did not happen overnight.

The seeds of what we are facing today, I say with the greatest respect to my friends, were sown over a decade ago. Because of a lack of foresight, a lack of vision and a lack of dealing with problems in an open, honest way, we have those problems today. We are prepared to deal with them openly and honestly. Some of the things my friend sees as a crisis are the result of our government saying, "We will address them and we have nothing to hide. Let's deal with it and look at solutions."

1710

I want to talk about the environment and the member's comment about the environment. I say to him, with the greatest respect, that I would rather have his friend, with his commercial institution, wait a little longer and make sure he meets some of the toughest requirements in terms of our regulations and our controls. We want to ensure that we will not have problems in the future. I would be very happy to speak at length with the member about some of the reasons that we have introduced some of the toughest legislation and regulations with respect to protecting our environment.

I say to my friend that I would rather pay a little bit now than a whole lot later on. We cannot afford to be responding to crisis situations in our environment. We will make sure that we are preventive; and when we do environmental assessments and environmental protection hearings, as long as we are in the government, we will ensure that we fulfil our responsibility to protect the environment first, and that industry fits into that protection model. We will continue to do that.

Mrs. O'Neill: I am honoured to give my thoughts on the budget. This government's budget is of great importance to the province, and I would like to zero in on its importance to Ottawa-Carleton and to my riding of Ottawa-Rideau in particular.

As the House is aware, portions of the three cities of Nepean, Gloucester and Ottawa form the riding of Ottawa-Rideau. Though these three municipalities each enjoy a distinct character and history, there is a common interest among the people of my riding that unifies it into a single community.

Being able to represent the distinct concerns of this community over the last year and a half has been a task I have enjoyed. I have been pleased with the initiatives of this government in that area, especially those outlined in this budget, that have benefited my riding and addressed many of the concerns of my constituents. What are the concerns of my constituents?

A quick glance at the demographics, geography and economy of my riding brings to light many issues of concern. My riding is composed of many young families—nearly 12,000 to be exact. It is, therefore, not surprising that education is of paramount importance to many of my constituents. You are no doubt aware of my own role in the educational system: I served my community for 14 years as a school trustee, first on the Carleton Roman Catholic Separate School Board and later on the Carleton Board of Education.

I was deeply honoured to have served a term as parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Education, and thus to have gained firsthand insight into the operations of that important ministry. I was extremely pleased to see the priority that this government has continued to give to education, and it has reiterated that in this budget.

Our government's top priority, as outlined in the budget in terms of elementary and secondary education, was to provide new schools for rapidly growing communities, while at the same time improving the overall quality of education in this province. Both these priorities were addressed in the budget with the announcement of a three-year commitment of \$900 million to the building of schools in new and developing areas—a \$249-million increase in provincial support to the operating expenditures of school boards—that brought the total commitment to \$3.9 billion.

The positive effects of these increases, particularly in the operating grants, were helpful to every student in this province. I was pleased to announce, in my own riding on April 26 of last year, and in conjunction with my other colleagues from Ottawa-Carleton, the allocation of funds to both Carleton boards of education that will generate \$32 million for our community. These allocations in my area displayed both the government's sensitivity and its commitment to relieving the problem of school overcrowding in our rapidly growing areas.

Since 1985, our government has quadrupled the annual amount spent on school capital, demonstrating that excellence in education is one of our government's top priorities. We have

demonstrated this commitment to excellence in education through other initiatives. These initiatives we have acknowledged as we adapt our educational system to a changing world. Sensitivity and regard for the students must be the key aspect of the framework within which we operate.

The government has been accused of adopting a technological approach in an attempt to rectify some of the problems we are now facing in our educational system. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Our approach has been a people approach.

One of our major initiatives has been the increase of teachers in the classroom; our primary initiative, as it is called. The second has been an increase of computers in the classroom, an example that we put pupils first and keep them in touch as they approach the 21st century. As countless studies have shown, the use of computers from a very early age can significantly accelerate the rate of a student's cognitive development and the range of concepts he or she can deal with.

On a more practical level, our children are living in a changing world. International competitiveness demands the application of new technologies to both our new and existing industries. If we in Ontario wish to maintain and enhance our prosperity, we need a new generation that is equipped with the skills and knowledge needed. Most important, we need a generation that is not afraid of computers or the role new technology will play in our society.

Of course, education does not end at the elementary or the secondary level for many of the people in this province, and neither does our government's commitment end at the secondary level. For those who wish to continue their education at the post-secondary level, the budget contains good news. Support for post-secondary education in this province during 1988-89 will reach \$2.6 billion, which is 41 per cent higher than in 1984-85. This significant increase to post-secondary education is highlighted by a four-year, \$440-million commitment to address urgent capital requirements in our colleges and universities.

To this end, on Thursday, March 31, the provincial government announced over \$16 million in grants to Ottawa-Carleton's two universities. A \$14.4-million, state-of-the-art complex for science and technology will be built at the University of Ottawa, with the province contributing \$9.6 million towards this important project. In addition, the minister also announced

a \$7.17-million grant that was awarded to Carleton University to assist the university in expanding its library capacity by 60 per cent.

In addition, I know that all members were very pleased with the signing of the agreement recently by the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mrs. McLeod) with the federal government that included the establishment of a French-language college in Ottawa, the first in this province; an accomplishment I am very pleased that this government has achieved.

This government understands that education is not exclusive to formal institutions of learning. Through the Ministry of Skills Development, programs to aid literacy and apprenticeship have been enhanced at both the workplace and within the community. Under our government, apprenticeship programs will continue to be modernized. I am happy to say that the increased participation of women in these apprenticeship programs will be emphasized.

I think the members of this House may be shocked to learn that women, who make up 44 per cent of the workforce, account for only five per cent of the apprentices. Recognizing this problem, the Ontario government will increase the number of women in the program by 150 per cent and put the commitment in the budget to that goal.

I believe the budget demonstrates the government's continuing and firm commitment to be open, progressive and activist. At the same time, the budget reaffirms the government's commitment to fiscal responsibility by cutting the provincial deficit to the lowest in 19 years, as my colleague mentioned earlier this afternoon.

I was pleased that the government not only recognized the regional disparities within the province but specifically has targeted the region I represent, eastern Ontario, to receive an increased emphasis on economic development.

The announcement of the Highway 416 project and targeted commitments to that is only one example of our intent to proceed with that important transportation facility.

1720

Transportation is of great interest to the people of Ottawa-Rideau and Ottawa-Carleton in general. Highway 416 will be a direct benefit to the citizens of the area I represent by providing a major stimulus to the already thriving tourist industry, which is an essential element of the capital's prosperity.

New industry will be attracted to our area with the completion of Highway 416. This will link us to Highway 401, the main thoroughfare of

Ontario, and certainly to the international border with the United States. I am enthusiastic about the Highway 416 project because, unlike the previous government, which promised such a highway for 31 years and failed to even start the project, our government has made a firm commitment and has indeed begun the project.

My riding is one of rapid growth. The widening of roads and the extension of sewers are important issues in Ottawa-Rideau, and I am happy to say that the provincial government has played a large role in funding the infrastructure in Ottawa-Carleton. To cite only one example: It was just a short time ago that the Minister of Transportation had the honour of opening the new \$60 million East Transitway in Ottawa, a project towards which the provincial government significantly contributed.

Issues involving waterfront and waterways are of extreme interest and importance to my riding, the meeting place of three rivers and the home of the world's largest canal system. Planned waterfront development is an ongoing process. I might add that I am pleased to note that this issue is addressed in our budget. I would urge the government to seriously consider within Ottawa-Rideau the strong commitment to the development of that resource of waterways.

On a similar subject, I fully support the government's initiative in environmental protection that was taken in this budget. I believe that the only successful approach is one that is two-pronged. We must be diligent and strive to strengthen our efforts to prevent pollution and, at the same time, make a commitment to those communities that are interested in solving their problems, as is the area from which I come.

Another significant development in my area has been the initiatives in housing that this government has taken. Earlier this year, as a result of our budget commitment, the province signed a historic housing agreement called the housing co-operative agreement. This was the pioneer agreement of such a nature in this province, and of that fact I am very proud.

The goal of this agreement was to create more housing, especially for low- and middle-income earners. This agreement, as I mentioned earlier, is a model for provincial-municipal co-operation, and is the basis for the new land policy statement that this government has recently made. In doing this, the province has committed to spending up to \$70 million over five years, and the city will respond by spending \$20 million. Indeed, this is admirable to support those who are unable to achieve housing that they can afford.

This budget also has encouraged business in this province. The businesses in my riding of Ottawa-Rideau, and in Ottawa-Carleton, have received benefits. There was \$8.5 million towards an \$18 million Titan project, which is a project that will spread itself over four years of research and development. It is designed to develop a world market in leading business programming language. It involves Cognos Inc. and GrayTek Management, both Ottawa-based, as well as our two universities, Carleton and Ottawa. It will generate 75 positions in the business field and 19 in the research field. These are not insignificant job creation efforts.

Also, \$22 million over five years were designated to improve designs for integrated circuits, a project including Calmos Systems, Mosaid Technologies of Kanata and our universities again and \$4.7 million to develop new diagnostic equipment to improve the speed with which physicians can assess patients' conditions. These are all very positive, up-to-date initiatives this government has taken to increase research and development that will in turn help both the health field and the business world. I have pointed to only those things that have taken effect within my own area.

If I may go back one second to the environment, I am proud to note that we have in our area co-operated with industry in the recycling end of waste management. This, I feel, is a commitment we have made personally, each individual member of my riding, to help the efforts this budget has put towards environmental protection.

Problems and concerns facing the people of Ontario in all aspects of their life, their home, their workplace and their community have been addressed. The reintroduction of health and safety legislation, the expanded network of support for seniors and disabled, the encouragement of municipalities to become involved in energy conservation—as I just mentioned—the recycling and waste management process, the establishment of the select committee on energy and the select committee on education are but a short list of our intentions and commitments to betterment of life for each person in Ontario.

As the representative for Ottawa-Rideau, I believe that in this budget concerns of very real people, of individuals in this province have been attended to. Indeed, the province as a whole has been addressed and my riding in particular will benefit from those items I have highlighted. I pledge that I will work towards the implementa-

tion of this budget and I am very proud that our government has initiated it.

Mr. Ballinger: It is a great pleasure for me to participate in the budget debate. In travelling through my riding, quite often at social functions people say to me: "Gee, Bill, we don't see you very often. We're always watching the parliamentary channel, but we never see you." It is with great joy that I am standing in the House today, because what most people have to realize is that with 94 members on our side, there is a rotation and a process by which we allow people to participate in debate.

It may seem odd that we are discussing a budget debate that relates to a fiscal 1988 budget, but I think the timing is very opportune, because we now have an opportunity as a government to see in living colour what we actually said we would do at the beginning of fiscal 1988. I am very pleased as a member of the government side.

[Applause]

Mr. Ballinger: I thank the member for Sudbury (Mr. Campbell), my wife's home town.

For me it has been a very unique transition. When I was mayor of Uxbridge, I can recall, back in the mid-1980s our total fiscal budget for the township of Uxbridge, both regional and local, was \$7 million. I can remember the year we hit the \$7 million and I was known as the \$7-million mayor. Coming to Queen's Park in September 1987 and discussing a budget of \$38 billion is mind-boggling when you think of those numbers.

Quite often people say: "What does the government do? Where do they spend all that money? What do you do with \$38 billion?" I must admit when I first came here, I was in awe myself. But after being in the process now, even in my own riding of Durham-York, which is made up of five member municipalities, we are dealing in my office on a daily basis with municipalities that have applications before this government for various grants. Whether they be for culture, whether they be for roads, whether they be for recreation or whether they be for social services or hospitals, all of those are very important to my local municipalities. As a provincial government, we are an intricate part of the local funding. A lot of the programs that are initiated locally could not come to fruition without the support of the provincial government.

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When you look at that \$38 billion which we raised last year, the expenditures are really

interesting when you break them down. As we all know, 33 per cent, 33 cents of every dollar, we are spending on health care.

It is always unique to stand here in a discussion about health care and listen to the opposition members, who tell us how poorly we are doing in administering the health care program. That is like the kettle calling the pot black. After all the years of mishandling the health system, we, as a government, have finally, up front, openly said to the people of Ontario: "Folks, at 33 cents on the dollar, we are spending enough money in the system. We are now going to manage that system more effectively." The problem we get in by saying that is that it leaves us wide open for the opposition, but that is a process that I have now become accustomed to.

When I raised \$7 million in my own community of Uxbridge, I did not have to ask the opposition whether it was okay. We looked at the local needs and the programs. We set the mill rate according to the programs we needed.

The problem we have here is that when we raised taxes last year to pick up for all those years of underfunding, the opposition was saying such things about the Treasurer. How could anybody say such terrible things about the Treasurer, like, "Jesse James has nothing on him"? I think the other one was, "He just picked your pockets, ladies and gentlemen of Ontario."

Even in question period here today, the opposition members stand up and bang away at the Minister of Health for not spending enough; they bang away at the Minister of Colleges and Universities for not spending enough; they bang away at the Minister of Education for not spending enough. They are always banging away at my boss, the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio), for not spending enough.

We cannot have it both ways here. I believe that as a government we recognized that necessary funding had to be spent. We did that. In order to do that, we have to raise taxes. The question for the opposition is, are we spending the money wisely? As a member of the government, I want to say that I believe we are spending the money wisely. I am proud to stand here as a member of our government and say to the people in Ontario, and more specifically in my riding: "I think we have been good managers of your money. I think we are providing those necessary programs for the people of Ontario all across Ontario."

In the past six weeks, I have been fortunate enough, on behalf of the Minister of Natural Resources, to travel across Ontario in my

capacity as parliamentary assistant and visit with all the conservation authorities. It is really interesting, because all the conservation authorities are saying, "We don't have enough money." I remember that, as mayor, I used to say, "The province has got to give us more money or else we can't function."

But we all have certain responsibilities, and in my travels across Ontario, it was really unique to see that the whole southern part of Ontario, more specifically every community, is experiencing some sort of growth. There is construction in almost every community across Ontario, whether it be residential, commercial or industrial. All of that puts tremendous pressure on the infrastructure and, more often than not, the municipalities depend upon the province to provide that infrastructure, but never have the municipalities had so much cash flow themselves.

We have sort of got ourselves into a system in Ontario where all the municipalities looked to the province to fund their programs first and then, if it did, they would jump in. Now what we are seeing is a difference in Ontario where the municipalities have to start initiating some of the programs themselves, because the province cannot be all things to all people with every program required.

If I have not learned anything else since I have been here, I have learned the process we have gone through to distribute that money across Ontario as evenly and fairly as we can. The people who believe that Toronto gets everything, because it is the focal centre—I just happen to have a list of some of the grants that have been distributed in my riding. We are close enough to Toronto yet far enough away from Toronto so that a lot of my constituents can commute and still get home to that nice, rural peace and quiet I have grown accustomed to.

Some of the programs that affect my riding—Durham College of Applied Arts and Technology got \$5 million. Durham College is the only post-secondary institution that the bulk of students in my riding can attend.

Last night, when I was in Sault Ste. Marie on behalf of the minister, I spoke to a gentleman there who had flown all the way from Windsor to attend a function at which his daughter was the executive chef at a hotel. This was the first big job she had, having been trained at a community college.

The point the gentleman made really came home to roost. He said: "I wasn't sure what my daughter wanted to do. She did show an interest in cooking and the community college provided

an extra outlet. In fact, she landed this really good job in Sault Ste. Marie."

A lot of the people who live in my riding attend Durham College. As our community grows, the population of the student body grows. There is the provincial budget; there is the funding there of \$5 million, which helps to provide additional programs.

A lot of our smaller communities are expanding in recreational programs. There is one thing I can say about the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr. O'Neil). He has certainly been good to the residents in my riding this year. We have done extremely well in terms of recreational facilities.

Again, what I want to do is relate how the provincial budget affects each and every one of us in our own ridings. When we look at a provincial program and think of the province, when we relate that to our own ridings, it really reinforces the satisfaction we get in supporting a budget which provides various programs for different ridings.

In my particular case, in the village of Cannington, through the Durham housing corporation, the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek) funded a program of \$1.2 million. That would not have been possible without the \$2-billion commitment of this government to housing in the last budget. I am very pleased, as the member for Durham-York, to support a budget that really ripples down into our own ridings in many ways.

I guess there will never be enough money ever for transportation, the way Ontario is growing and the way the Golden Horseshoe around Metropolitan Toronto is growing. I was reading today about how everyone is saying, "You know, we're underfunding the road program." We are not underfunding the road program at all. In fact, since we took office, we have increased spending by \$400 million. But it can never be enough.

It is the same argument people make in education. We spent \$381 million in 1988 for capital construction alone in education. Four years ago, the government of the day spent \$76 million. In my area of Durham-York, the two fastest-growing regions in all of Ontario, we got something to the tune of \$200 million for new facilities, and people still say to me: "Well, Bill, we have lots of portables in our community. How come we don't have new schools?"

The question is: How much money can we spend? If I ran my household by purchasing everything I ever wanted in my life, I could never afford it.

Mr. Reycraft: You have done that already.
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Mr. Ballinger: I have done some of those things. Yes, I certainly have.

Again, my riding is close, but not that close. Agriculture is still a reasonably strong way of life in my riding. Since we took office in 1984, we have increased expenditures in agriculture by 86 per cent. This year alone expenditures were \$546 million in agriculture. The largest amount of money ever spent in the history of the province in agriculture was spent in 1988.

People, especially the opposition, always ask, "Where are you spending the money?" When we tell them where we are spending the money, about two weeks later they get a really good media hit when they say, "You are not spending enough money in certain areas." So we always try to keep in perspective our role here as government members and the program delivery for the people all across Ontario.

When it comes to tax assistance, I will be very frank. Before I came here, I had no idea that the government would spend in tax assistance, in 1988 alone, \$444 million for those people who require it. In the tax reduction program in 1988, that was reduced by an additional \$40 million.

Ontario health insurance plan assistance is another one I had no idea about. Although I knew that senior citizens are not required to pay OHIP premiums, I had no idea that it amounted to the tune of \$770 million, almost three quarters of a billion dollars on OHIP premium assistance.

What that provides is that for those people who require the assistance, our government is there. It is there each and every time. A lot of people say it is not enough, and that is fair. We understand that. Those people who say that really do not look at that global picture.

As mayor of a small community, I used to look at only the requirements of my little community. I never thought I would have the opportunity to stand in the Legislature and look at Ontario as a whole and discuss things like day care, social assistance in housing—I do not know why it is that every time I stand up somebody passes me a note to try to break my train of thought. I want to get back.

There is an interesting thing that is happening from Ontario's point of view. Again, you start relating to it when you are here and you see that the federal government starts cutting back and it starts sliding programs. I was at the Ontario Good Roads Association convention on Monday night and there was a great discussion. In the 10 years I have been in municipal politics, I have

never missed going to the Royal York Hotel and chatting with all the other municipal politicians across Ontario. Usually I was on the other side saying, "Ontario, those big bad guys;" and we always got an excuse. Now I find myself in a really unique position because—

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Did you change your view?

Mr. Ballinger: No, here I am, folks. I am now at the provincial level and have had the opportunity to have a perception of Ontario; not just my own little community and my own little concerns and never mind about anything else, just give me what I need. The beautiful thing of now being on the other side is that I can be objective about this process we are involved in.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: It must have taken you a long time to rationalize that.

Mr. Ballinger: Not that long at all.

In terms of health and education, there is a little slide coming from the federal government down to the provincial government; it is sort of interesting. From 1979 to 1980, the federal government was transferring 52 per cent dollars, down to this year when we are at 39 per cent.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: It is sort of like freezing unconditional grants to municipalities.

Mr. Ballinger: The member for Windsor-Riverside makes a really interesting point, that it all comes out of the same pocket, whether one is at the federal, the provincial or the municipal level. But we have a really interesting process here. The federal government in now trying to make its budget look good is impacting on ours tremendously.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Yours already looks good.

Mr. Ballinger: Thank you very much. That is the first time the member has ever admitted that.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: The deficit is very low.

Mr. Keyes: That really threw you off.

Mr. South: Keep the train on the track.

Interjections.

Mr. Ballinger: To the member for Windsor-Riverside, I enjoy interjecting and heckling as well, so I guess I am hoist with my own petard here.

I want to go back to the point about travelling Ontario and the growth that is happening and the wealth in Ontario. We are really very fortunate. I guess if we stayed in here for question period for that hour and a half and took what the opposition members say to heart, we really would think that we have major problems in Ontario. But we do not have major problems in Ontario. In fact, Ontario is the envy of the rest of this country.

There are provinces in this country that look with envy at some of the programs we are able to initiate and fund on behalf of our residents. We are very fortunate here in Ontario. The taxes that we pay for the service we provide for each and every citizen of this province are second to none anywhere.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: That is true. They are the highest taxes in the country.

Mr. Ballinger: The member for Windsor-Riverside can always say that. He cannot have it both ways. He cannot say on one hand, "You're overtaxing the people," and on the other hand, "You're not spending enough money."

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I am agreeing with you. You said our taxes are second to none.

Mr. Ballinger: He consistently does that in his arguments. "You're not spending enough money, but you raise too much in taxes." I have never been in opposition, so I have never been able to put myself on the attack of the other side.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: It's a terrible place to be.

Mr. Ballinger: I am sure. But being on the government side and watching the chess game unfold each day, you wonder: "Where are they going to come at us next? Why are they coming at us that way?"

When I am working on weekends, people who live in my riding are genuinely concerned about specific, individual programs. Each day when I come in here I get so nervous. I say, "Are we really that bad?" The answer is no, we are not that bad at all.

I am really proud of this government and the commitment it is giving to the people of Ontario in many areas all across this province. When you get the little grants in your riding and people write you little thank-you notes and say, "Dear Mr. Ballinger, Thank you very much. Without the assistance of your government, we couldn't do this or we couldn't do that, or we couldn't build this or we couldn't build that." It makes you really feel good, because we never get a note from the opposition members. I have never had a note from the opposition.

Mr. Faubert: Yes, you had one from Andy Brandt.

Mr. Ballinger: I am sorry; I just had one, yes. I take it back. I must admit it was not very complimentary either, but that is consistent with this forum in here. I am growing accustomed to that. I really am. It is the one thing that surprised me most of all, because I thought everybody came in here and they were all good friends. Oh, boy, how quickly you learn.

Even when you do something good, the opposition does not want to admit it. They always work out an angle. What is it the member for Brampton North calls it? A wiggle. They always work out a wiggle so that even if the government has done something that is really good for the people of Ontario, the opposition says: "You thought of maybe nine points of it, but you forgot about the one point. We've got the point, and the point is the government's blown it again."

Mr. Reycraft: Too much is not enough.

Mr. Ballinger: Too much is not enough; that is absolutely correct. We have good news for the opposition: the people in this province, on balance, do not think we are outrageous.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: We'll see.

Mr. Ballinger: We will see; 1991 will not come soon enough for me, because that will give us, as government members, an opportunity to go to the public and say, "This is what we've been doing, this is what we've done and this is how Ontario has benefited."

Mr. D. S. Cooke: You won't even be vested by then.

Mr. Ballinger: Listen. One of the things the opposition does very well is exploit the numbers game. It is really all part of the fun in this game of checkers.

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Hon. Mr. Conway: Oh no, he was talking about your pension. You won't even have a pension, as if you care.

Mr. Ballinger: I am not worried about that. I have never worried about that before.

Mr. Reycraft: You've already bought everything money can buy.

Mr. Ballinger: That's right. My wife went back to work this year, so I am okay. I have a second income, so I am okay.

If you live in Ontario, because of the boom in the economy, because of the growth in the economy, most people's equity is growing at a more-than-fair rate. The opposition always wants to talk about how poorly we have done in housing. In my riding, because of some of the government initiatives, I have benefited and my riding has benefited from some of our housing initiatives. There is no question about that. For people who own property in Ontario, their equity has done extremely well.

I am always amazed that when the government does something like cut a road—people forget that governments do good things that affect their own

lives from an equity point of view as well. I can recall Highway 404 running north off the Don Valley Parkway. For 20 years in our community and in the communities of Whitchurch, Stouffville and East Gwillimbury, we waited for some kind of growth. In Uxbridge, we waited for a second grocery store for 20 years. The moment the government planned that road and cut that road up central Ontario, let me tell the members what it did to the communities. It opened those communities up.

I have received another great note from the opposition. Thank you. The question is, "How about saying something the opposition does well?" They write nice notes.

The initiative of a road program can be beneficial to communities. In my particular riding, Highway 404 has benefited our whole area unbelievably. It has opened up communities. We now have residential development. When the residential development starts, then you get commercial investment and then you get industrial investment. All of those things contribute to a better economy.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: You should drive Highway 401 down to Windsor and get your brains bounced about.

Mr. Ballinger: There again is the member for Windsor-Riverside wanting to come in with another negative comment.

Mr. Neumann: That is what he does well.

Mr. Ballinger: That is exactly what he does well. He accuses me of not saying anything nice about the opposition; he never says anything nice about the government.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: You don't even write good notes.

Mr. Ballinger: That is fine. I have never written the member one. I might start now. It will be short and right to the point. It will probably include only a couple of words.

My time is winding down, and I waited a long time to have the opportunity to speak on the budget. I am really pleased to have this opportunity, because if we as a government do not tell the people in Ontario, do not communicate to them what we are doing, everybody is going to tell them what we are not doing. So we have a responsibility to say to the people of Ontario, "Here's what we're doing, why we're doing it and how we, all of us, as Ontarians can benefit from what we're doing."

Our government is doing some good things. I wish I had another two hours to tell all the members. I am sure the member for Windsor-

Riverside would probably want to go and have a cup of coffee. He would not want to hear all the good things we are doing.

I want to wind down with some comments about my riding, some of its communities and some of the grants it got last year, thanks to the 1988 budget and thanks to the member for Brant-Haldimand (Mr. R. F. Nixon), a very progressive and conscientious Treasurer. The member for Brant-Haldimand has been in this House longer than any other member and he knows, after sitting all those years in opposition, what had to be done for Ontario. He knew he had to raise taxes to provide the programs that had not been provided for the last 10 years under a previous government. He did that. My riding benefited tremendously.

In transportation, in Durham, we committed \$7 million. Durham College, I mentioned, had \$5 million for a major addition which will help expand the programs.

We gave a commitment under the Ministry of the Environment in Ballantrae, one of the hamlets, for a new central water system. Those people in Ballantrae had been waiting for about seven or eight years to get the government to give a commitment. Our government gave a commitment and said it would fund a study and it would provide its share, its portion of capital dollars for a central water system.

In the village of Cannington, the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation committed almost \$60,000 to renovate the curling club. There is an example. That curling club could not have afforded the renovations without the support of this government.

In East Gwillimbury, the community is growing so quickly there is much pressure on its recreational department. It is like the chicken and the egg. All of a sudden the people come to the community and you have to provide these services. Our government provided \$20,000 for a master plan on recreation so the community could start planning a recreational program that would suit the needs of the community.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Where's that? East Gwillimbury?

Mr. Ballinger: Yes. There was another \$50,000 in East Gwillimbury for an archaeological master plan. There are some historic sites in East Gwillimbury. Our government has recognized that through the Ministry of Culture and Communications and provided the necessary funding to protect those very, very sensitive areas.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Again East Gwillimbury.

Mr. Ballinger: Well I want to talk about Georgina now, because in Georgina, transportation has had \$1 million. In Uxbridge, the Ministry of the Environment is doing some retrofitting, I think is the latest terminology. We are retrofitting some of the old sewer and water pipes. That could not be done without the support of the Minister of the Environment. Again in Uxbridge, there was an additional \$100,000 in supplementary for transportation.

I really feel great about this. I have three pages of grants in my riding alone. This House is full of our own members, and I am looking across at all the Liberal members and I know they all have three or four pages of grants that came into their ridings, thanks to this government. I can tell the members that for some of the grants on these pages that I hold in my hand, these communities waited many, many years before they had the opportunity, and our government did that.

I see I have a couple of minutes left, and I want to close by saying that I have appreciated the opportunity, as a member of this government, to speak in support of our budget. I know there are people out there in Ontario who believe we are not spending enough and I know there are people who believe we are spending too much. The best part that I find, after being here this past year, was feeling like I really did have input and an opportunity to sit at the table and make some

decisions on behalf of all of the people of Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: And Durham-York.

Mr. Ballinger: Yes, certainly, and Durham-York, my own riding. I was going to plug that at the end.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: You have two seconds left.

Mr. Campbell: You've only got 45 seconds.

Mr. Ballinger: Well, then, I would just like to wrap up by saying again that my riding is made up of five member municipalities, Uxbridge, Brock, Georgina, East Gwillimbury and Whitchurch-Stouffville, and I really feel pleased that our government has participated in many of the programs that helped see those programs come to fruition to benefit those people within my own riding.

In a global sense, I know all of us can say that for each and every one of us with our own ridings here. I did not spend as much time speaking about my riding as the member for Brampton North did, but I thought maybe his mom and dad, after listening to his speech, really did not want to spend a lot of time listening to me chat about my riding.

On motion by Mr. Ballinger, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breaugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)
Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health (Orillia L)
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)
Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)
 Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC)
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)
Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)
Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A., Speaker (Perth L)
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)
Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L)
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)

Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)
Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)
 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)
Grandmaitre, Hon. Bernard C., Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)
 Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)
 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)
Hošek, Hon. Chaviva, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)
 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)
 Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L)
Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G., Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L)
 Kormos, Peter (Welland-Thorold NDP)
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)
Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)
 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)
 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)
 Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)
 MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)
 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)
Mancini, Hon. Remo, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)
 Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)
 Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP)
 Matrundola, Gino (Willowdale L)
 McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)
 McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)
 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)
 McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)
 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)
McLeod, Hon. Lyn, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)
 Miclash, Frank (Kenora L)

- Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)
 Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)
 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)
Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier,
 Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Eco-
 nomics and Minister of Financial Institutions
 (Brant-Haldimand L)
Oddie Munro, Hon. Lily, Minister of Culture
 and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)
O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and
 Recreation (Quinte L)
 O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)
 Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)
Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government
 Services (Ottawa Centre L)
 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)
Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and Presi-
 dent of the Council and Minister of Inter-
 governmental Affairs (London Centre L)
 Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)
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No. 152

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 34th Parliament
Thursday, February 23, 1989

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, February 23, 1989

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

SPEED LIMITS

Mr. Smith moved resolution 64:

That, in the opinion of this House, recognizing that highways in Ontario are constructed in such a way to permit vehicles to travel safely at speeds greater than the presently posted limits, the government of Ontario should consider amending current legislation to increase speed limits on 400-class highways to 115 kilometres per hour for cars and light trucks and to 105 kilometres per hour for trucks over one tonne, and on secondary highways to 90 kilometres per hour for cars and light trucks and to remain at 80 kilometres per hour for trucks over one tonne.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Lambton has moved the resolution standing in his name. The member has up to 20 minutes to make his presentation and may reserve any portion of that 20 minutes for windup.

Mr. Smith: I would like to take this opportunity to express my thoughts and make comments in proposing this resolution, which would consider amendments to alter presently posted speed limits of 100 kilometres per hour to 115 kilometres per hour for cars and light trucks and 105 kilometres per hour for trucks over one tonne on 400-series highways, and on other secondary highways from 80 kilometres per hour to 90 kilometres per hour for cars and light trucks while remaining at 80 kilometres per hour for trucks over one tonne.

The issue of speed limit restriction has been a topic of controversy and even heated discussions for many years in Ontario and other jurisdictions such as the United States, Britain and European countries. A quick glance into our provincial debates over this subject indicates just that as well.

In February 1976, Ontario speed limits on the 400-series highways, as well as the Queen Elizabeth Way, were lowered from 70 miles per hour, which is approximately 113 kilometres per

hour, to 60 miles per hour, which is approximately 100 kilometres per hour.

On August 8, 1986, the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Fulton), after being approached by advocates in favour of increased speed limits, rejected pleas to raise posted limits from 100 kilometres per hour on freeways, 90 kilometres per hour on the Trans-Canada Highway and 80 kilometres per hour on secondary roads.

As recently as May 12, 1988, during this current 34th Parliament, my colleague the member for Kenora (Mr. Micalash) presented and received support for a resolution to consider amendments to existing legislation to increase the speed limit in northern Ontario from 80 kilometres per hour to 90 kilometres per hour.

I would like to say I have great respect for my colleague the Minister of Transportation and his staff for having taken many initiatives on highway safety over the past years. This ministry has worked effortlessly to provide safe standards for Ontario drivers. The latest, most modern technology has been utilized in the construction of provincial highways to enable drivers to enjoy a more comfortable and safe travelling atmosphere. I applaud and support the minister in his efforts to keep the transportation network in Ontario at such a high level of excellence.

As I am sure members are aware, speed limits in North America were lowered to reduce gasoline consumption in the midst of an energy crisis caused by the Arab oil embargo in 1973. Evidence indicates that this strategy worked; however, since that time, oil prices have dropped or stabilized and the energy crisis in North America has declined, cars have been built smaller and more efficient and the argument to keep speed limits down has become harder to justify.

As I said before, in February 1976, Ontario speed limits were lowered on 400-series highways and the QEW from 70 miles per hour, which is 113 kilometres per hour, to 60 miles per hour, which is 100 kilometres per hour; but also the use of seatbelts became mandatory for all drivers and passengers in the same year. It is therefore difficult to state the number of lives saved by reducing highway speeds, because both

measures took effect at approximately the same time.

Trends in speed restriction in countries other than Canada provide evidence that a review of Ontario speed limit restrictions should be reassessed, and I feel to increase presently posted limits as outlined in my resolution does not seem unreasonable. Countries such as Austria, Belgium, France and Italy all restrict drivers to 120 kilometres per hour, a speed still higher than these proposed here today.

We are fortunate in this province to travel on highways which were built with the best technology. Roads today are constructed to accommodate a higher rate of speed and a greater volume of traffic.

It is interesting to take note of some statistics with respect to this increased volume of traffic on our highways. In 1931, there were approximately 666,000 licensed drivers and approximately 600,000 cars and trucks. In comparison, an overwhelming six million drivers were registered in 1987, as well as approximately 5.5 million vehicles.

If one were to examine the total accidents over this same time period, 1931 to 1987, one would soon realize that this figure fluctuates and shows no consistency to prove that high speeds were solely responsible for highway accidents. For example, in 1976, the year of mandatory seatbelt legislation and lowered speed limits, total accidents were approximately 211,000. In 1977, only one year later, this accident figure rose by 7,000, to 218,000 accidents. Incredibly, 1978 had 286,000 accidents, which is the most ever recorded in one year.

1010

I have to mention the increase in the volume of cars and trucks from 1950, when there were 1,080,000 vehicles, to 1986, when there were 5,190,000 vehicles. That is a span of 36 years. If we project forward these numbers of cars and trucks, we have to move traffic more quickly where we can in the very near future. Upon closer review of the Ontario Road Safety annual report of 1987, the total accident statistics showed a great deal of inconsistency, especially since 1976. In fact, this figure has decreased from the previous year a total of seven times in comparison with an increase from the previous year of five times.

I am convinced that many more factors dictate the number of traffic accidents than solely the issue of travelling at higher speeds. Roads were designed for higher speeds. In circumstances where drivers travel long distances on well-

designed highways such as we have, the presently posted limits create frustration, resentment and a bad driver attitude. It is my feeling that this resolution suggesting modest speed limit increases will enable a great volume of traffic to move more quickly and safely from destination to destination.

If safety is the only consideration, then there really is no speed limit that would guarantee driver safety because the issue of speed is only one of numerous safety measures that drivers must adhere to. Along the same line of thinking, it is my opinion that a modest increase in the speed limits will respond to the ability of today's high-technology and efficient engines, as well as transmissions with their overdrives. They use only a small percentage of their peak engine power to cruise at highway speeds. Vehicle-wear benefit is improved and fuel efficiency and economy are greater when the time-of-travel factor is involved.

This resolution offers the driver greater mobility and a reduction in travel time, which is the most obvious cost of lower speeds. I strongly believe that there are numerous reasons to explain traffic injuries and fatalities. The issue of highway speeding is but one single factor.

Giving a few more statistics, there were 571 deaths in 1931 on the highways, if we could really call them highways at that time, with 666,000 drivers, while in 1987 there were only 1,229 fatalities with 6 million drivers and 5.5 million vehicles. Consideration and recognition must be given to other safety measures such as retraining for a better driver attitude and better training for the new driver.

Causes of accidents can be attributed to such things as drunk or impaired driving, slush on highways, unsafe lane changing, drowsiness, lack of driver concentration or a bad driving attitude. An example as simple as a parent finding the need to calm two children in the back seat could cause attention to road safety to be less than 100 per cent, or adjusting the tape deck or radio, or dropping a cigarette. The operation of a vehicle is a full-time job and requires one's full attention whether one is driving at 40 kilometres an hour or 120 kilometres an hour.

I would like to address the subject of a limit for trucks over one tonne to 105 kilometres per hour on 400-series highways and the limit remaining at 80 kilometres an hour on secondary highways. A general feeling indicates that larger trucks should move more slowly, especially when loaded. They cannot react to traffic fluctuations

and emergency situations as quickly as smaller vehicles.

One thing they do have an advantage in is that the driver can see farther ahead than a car driver because the driver's line of vision is approximately eight feet off the ground level. In some cases this gives the truck driver an advantage to see pending problems ahead. However, it must be kept in mind that considerably slower speed restrictions for one-tonne trucks will result in productivity loss because profit levels are directly related to travel time. This could be considered a compromise to take into account for heavy trucks.

I have driven both a straight truck of over 20 tonnes and an 18-wheeler during a six-year period, so I can speak from experience in driving both cars and trucks, travelling on roads under all conditions to earn a livelihood. I feel that current average highway traffic speeds exceed posted limits now. Therefore, a modest increase of 15 kilometres per hour would better reflect reality on our highways.

Weather conditions also present an interesting angle to the cause of traffic accidents. Road conditions such as snow-covered, icy or slushy roads, and poor visibility due to sunlight, fog, mist or rain or even high winds are directly responsible for causing many accidents too. Although I am not able to substantiate this opinion with statistics, it certainly presents a thought-provoking question.

I might add that alcohol and drinking drivers are the cause of many accidents.

On February 16, 1989, the Minister of Transportation indicated that he is considering higher fines and additional demerit points for driving offences to target accident-causing practices. Driver error was reported to be blamed for approximately 80 per cent of traffic accidents. One measure to correct this figure is to retrain the driver to portray a better driver attitude towards the operation of a vehicle. I support the minister's initiatives to reduce highway accidents and, at the same time, to improve highway safety. The Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere program has definitely reduced accidents on the highways.

I would like to reiterate an article from the *Globe and Mail* of August 13, 1987, entitled "British Drivers Have a Lesson for Ontario." In this article, David Nowell explains the British driving system and compares it to drivers in Ontario. For example, Mr. Nowell points out that on multilane highways, drivers utilize the far left lane at all speed limits. If a faster driver pulls

up behind a slower vehicle in this fast lane, a psychological push is given to the driver ahead and perhaps headlights are flashed. In frustration, the aggressive faster driver is forced to change two or more lanes to the right and then return to the left lane by changing two or more lanes again. This practice of passing on either side is legal in Canada.

In comparison, in Britain, the overtaking lane is not to be blocked and is used solely for the purpose of overtaking another vehicle. The law forbids drivers to pass on the equivalent of our right-hand lanes. Thus, traffic moves in an orderly manner. This also results in vehicles going all speeds to mix on the same road very safely, because each driver sticks to his lane in accordance with his speed. Mr. Nowell offers some suggestions which merit consideration, such as the banning of passing on the right and reservation of the left lane for the purpose of overtaking only, with slower vehicles yielding to faster vehicles.

In summary, I feel that the resolution I have presented today responds to the needs of drivers of Ontario by accommodating a greater volume of traffic to avoid congestion. The roads in Ontario are in very good condition and are constructed in such a way as to handle the higher volume of traffic on today's roads at higher speeds. An increase of 15 kilometres per hour for cars and light trucks and an increase of five kilometres per hour for trucks over one tonne for 400-series highways, along with a corresponding increase of 10 kilometres per hour for cars and light trucks on secondary highways and no change from the present limit for trucks over one tonne, seem quite modest.

Excessive speed at any posted speed limit is certainly a factor which could cause accidents, and certainly the slow driver can cause problems as well. However, there are many other factors that pose real dangers as well. If speed limits were raised, I feel that the roads would be safer in this more orderly environment and police could concern themselves with dangerous drivers rather than just speeders.

I think it is important to recognize that speed limits were originally lowered in response to an oil crisis which has since passed and possibly was never really a crisis anyway.

I support campaigns by the Ministry of Transportation to address the issue of driver attitude, but I would also like to suggest mandatory side mirrors, which are a tremendous benefit in heavy traffic. Amber fog lamps and brake lamps would help in poor weather condi-

tions, as would higher truck brake lamps, amber-coloured as well.

I feel it is the absence of some of these changes and not solely the higher speed which causes the majority of accidents on our roads. There are many areas in Ontario where the drivers should be allowed to move more quickly over our excellent highways without endangering their safety. The operation of a vehicle requires 100 per cent of one's concentration, whether the vehicle speed is under or over the presently posted speed limits. A modest rise in speed limits will still require 100 per cent attention and concentration to road safety and defensive driving.

I would like to reserve my remaining time for further concluding remarks after my colleagues have spoken to this resolution.

1020

Mr. Mackenzie: It is unfortunate that I saw this resolution just this morning, because I really would like to have had some time to refresh my memory, if you like, on a committee of this House which I had the great privilege to sit on in September 1976 and early 1977. That was the select committee on highway safety, which spent a lot of time and, I think, did some of the best work I have ever had the privilege to participate in of a committee of this Legislature.

Having just received the copy in the last two minutes and not having gotten to the pages I really want to take a look at yet, I am going to express, if I can, some of my own comments, probably off the cuff, and may jump over a few points in response to the member's notice of motion. I do want to say right off the bat, with respect to the member, that I think his notice is a bad one. I think it would be very, very unfortunate to see us move in this particular direction in Ontario.

Some things do stick in my mind very clearly. The hearings we held right across the province and a trip we took at the time to visit some of the testing facilities in Holland and England and to visit with the Swedish authorities, which had probably done more work on highway safety, road accidents and drinking drivers than just about anybody in the business up to that point in time, made one thing very clear; that is, there is a recognition universally that speed does kill.

There was also a recognition that yes, you may have an awful lot of drivers who have had some alcohol or who, in current times, may have been on some of the popular drugs of the day that are responsible for accidents. One thing that was clear then, and I do not think it has changed one

iota today, is that for drivers who are drinking or maybe using some of the illegal drugs in society, a higher legislated speed is an invitation to disaster, because their judgement is even less clear than it would be under other circumstances.

I do not think you can say that more accidents are caused by drugs or drinking than speed in itself; I think there is a combination of factors. I do not think there is any question about that, but I am saying to the member that even he must recognize and recognize very clearly that if we boost the speed limits in this province, that is going to exacerbate, not improve, the situation in terms of any drivers who may be indulging.

I do not think the member can dismiss as easily as he has the fact that we are in little better shape in terms of our oil, gas and energy resources at the moment. The figures overall have not really changed in the world today. There is no question that the question of a secure energy supply, particularly in terms of gasoline and oil, is an ongoing problem. From time to time, due to a variety of factors, whether here or in the Persian Gulf countries, political situations may see the supplies ease or tighten up again. We are facing a very serious problem worldwide in terms of energy supplies.

The restriction of the use of those supplies is accomplished effectively and in large measure through control over things like high speeds on our highways. I do not think we just dismiss, because it is a little easier and gasoline prices are not that high at the moment, the fact that we do need to be concerned about the amount of gas consumed by drivers on our highways.

I think he has totally missed another new development, or a development that we could foresee from the demographics in our country, which has a very definite effect in terms of safety on the highway, and that is the fact that we have an older population and a growing older population. There may be some speed demons in that group. I say with respect that we always shuddered a bit at one of my colleagues and the way he would drive occasionally, the past member for Welland-Thorold.

The fact is that if you talk to older people, as when I talk to my mom and dad—my dad is still driving at the age of 85—the vast majority of them are concerned about the speed and the increased use of our highways and tend to drive a little slower. I do not think we are doing them any favours and I do not think the member would find much support from the vast number of older drivers in Ontario for the idea of increasing the speed limits on Ontario highways.

The member can also say that we have built our highways better and for higher speeds. There is an element of truth in that. But the member must also know that, especially on our main highways in this province, the increased use and the increased traffic on them, which is a continuing concern for drivers, is phenomenal.

It may not be representative of all of Ontario, but the Queen Elizabeth Way, the highway from my town, Hamilton, over here to Toronto—or whether you go up to Highway 400 and Highway 401—is clearly a highway on which the speed limits are not enforced, on which, on a bad day, one can pass as many as 10 or 15 accidents if one happens to have slipperiness, or some ice or snow. As it is, in the few spots where the traffic opens up a bit, the speeds are much too high but the increased traffic there makes it a disaster to drive every day of the week.

I suspect the member does use some of those main highways. I know that he would not get an awful lot of support from drivers on the Queen Elizabeth Way for increased speed on that particular highway.

The member also talks about the difference in trucks. One of the problems we had on the select committee on highway safety was the speed of trucks. I can recall sitting down with the trucking companies in that committee, and being told by them that some of our concerns and the concerns that many drivers on the highway have over the speed of trucks, particularly the big rigs that we have on the highway today, were really uncalled-for concerns, because in fact their drivers were instructed to obey the speed limits.

Quite frankly, that is a bit of a laugh. I do not think it is because of any deliberate desire to break the law, but I travel at close to the speed limit most of the time, when I can and when it is open enough on the highways. If I am travelling at close to the speed limit, and it is open enough so that we are not in a stop-and-go situation, most of the rigs will pass me almost as though I were standing still. That is the case with many other drivers on the highway as well.

The member has also not considered the amount of traffic moving in this province with the use of trucks. Trucks, as most of us know, have really replaced much of the rail shipping of goods, as some of the rail lines closed down and no longer serviced many of the smaller communities in this province. Trucks on the highway have dramatically increased in numbers, as have automobiles. I as an individual—and, I am darned sure, most of the drivers in Ontario—do not want to be competing with increased speed limits and

with some of the huge rigs that we have on the highways today in increased numbers.

You add that to the factor, as I mentioned, of an increasingly older population as well, and I think you are penalizing them in terms of safety on the highways.

The congestion is the major factor that I think rules against an increase in speed limits. There was no question on that select committee on highway safety, either in our hearings here in Ontario or in the hearings that we held with many of the authorities in Europe, that speed does kill. It was not a popular move, even in the European countries, even for some of them that had a higher speed than we did.

Almost every recommendation in terms of controlling speed on the highway dealt with the question, "Could we afford more cruisers, even if they were unmarked, to try to slow drivers down, and even if they were parked without an officer in the particular cruiser, to have some effect on the traffic flow patterns?"

Even if we have built better highways that can accommodate more speed we have some problems, as you will know from the people who are responsible for good roads; and from many of the municipalities keeping our budget up-to-date in terms of repairs these days. So I am not sure you can totally make the argument that we have really built them to accommodate the additional speed.

There are many other things and some quotes out of the report I would like to have been able to refer to. But let me say in all seriousness—and, as I said at the beginning, not in an attitude of confrontation—I think that this motion and this proposal would be a wrong move, a very bad wrong move for Ontario, and I hope the members in the House will consider it carefully before they vote for it.

1030

Mr. Runciman: I want to participate on behalf of my party and indicate that we are not supportive of the motion by the member for Lambton (Mr. Smith). I guess it is an indication of why we were here the past couple of weeks. We were here yesterday to listen to members of the government say wonderful things about their budget, and we are here today to listen to the member for Lambton talk about increasing speed limits. Obviously the members of the brown-nose gang over here are very supportive of that initiative.

Mr. Ballinger: I am glad somebody finally recognized us.

Mr. Runciman: Mr. Speaker, is it appropriate to heckle when you are not sitting in your

seat? If it is not, I am sure you will take the appropriate action.

The Deputy Speaker: I will.

Mr. Runciman: I agreed essentially with the comments made by the previous speaker, the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie), although I would have some difference of opinion with respect to the views about the fuel savings that are realized as a result of somewhat lower speed limits. I have always felt that was something of a red herring. If governments really feel that initiatives have to be undertaken to significantly reduce fuel consumption as a result of automotive use, I think much tougher and more effective measures will have to be considered.

I think all of us have noted that virtually every car we see in traffic in the Metro Toronto area has one person alone in that car. It is a terrible waste of fuel. If we all look at more effective ways of utilization of automobiles in our society, it could indeed have a very significant impact on fuel consumption. At some point in the future, I do agree with the member for Hamilton East, we are going to be faced with that kind of problem unless there are other technologies coming on the market which may be our salvation, but at this point it certainly does not look as though the answer is in the immediate future anyway.

The member talked about his view that speed limits be increased as not being a major safety concern; he is obviously not in agreement with his colleague the Minister of Transportation, who not too long ago gained a great deal of publicity when he tabled a report indicating quite the contrary and suggested he was going to be undertaking a number of initiatives to try to improve the traffic safety situation in the province. Certainly that report identified speed as a major problem. He talked also about tightening up regulations and penalties for speeders and a number of other violations of traffic laws. As I said, he got a good deal of positive press about those initiatives.

When I say that the member is doing something in direct contradiction to a member of his own executive council, I also want to point out that is not terribly unusual with this government. We have certainly seen it this week when I have been questioning the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs (Mrs. Wilson), who is present today. When we are expressing concerns about senior-citizen auto insurance rates, she is saying that all of our concerns and the concerns of the media are hypothetical, that we are just trying to stir up

unnecessary fears among the seniors in this province.

Of course, that is a bunch of baloney. As the member for York Mills (Mr. J. B. Nixon) knows full well, along with the member for Kingston and The Islands (Mr. Keyes), both of whom sat through the standing committee on administration of justice hearings on Bill 2, we had witness after witness indicate what the impact was going to be on seniors in this province, and we had the Mercer report very clearly indicate the dislocation that was going to occur.

But the minister stands up in this House, not only in the face of that testimony over a significant period of time but also in direct contradiction of the chairman of the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board—who, over the past weekend, bemoaned the fact that this indeed was going to significantly hurt numbers of seniors in this province, pointed out some specifics in that regard and also expressed, I believe, a genuine concern about individuals living on fixed incomes—and still has the—I have to be careful here. Is temerity the right word? Is that an appropriate word?—to stand up and say it is still hypothetical and that I am trying to scare seniors. That is a case again of another individual in government—an arm of government, a Liberal appointee, Mr. Kruger—saying one thing and the minister standing up in the House and saying something else.

We have another indication again where we have seen an example of the member from Ottawa West (Mr. Chiarelli) taking strong issue with the duly elected municipal representatives in Ottawa, chastising them severely for doing their job, standing up on behalf of their constituents and saying: "Look, this Liberal government is not giving the Ottawa area a fair shake. We're not getting significant dollars into our area for the maintenance and upgrading of our road and highway system." What does the member for Ottawa West do? He stands up and dumps all over these duly elected municipal officials—

Mr. Ballinger: Just like you do to us.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Runciman: —many of whom have supported the Liberal cause in years gone by and up to at least the date that the member stood up and was severely criticized.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Runciman: All of those good people, duly elected officials, trying to do the best job

possible for the people they try to represent, and that is the sort of reaction we get.

Mr. Ballinger: I hear this; I don't believe it.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Runciman: Of course, we have a conflict going with another member of the governing party, another Ottawa member—I am trying to find her riding as well—for Ottawa-Rideau (Mrs. O'Neill), who very quickly recognized the dangers that this kind of a comment was going to generate in the Ottawa area for other fine members from that area, and I know there are some; there is one in the House here today. I will not mention his name for fear it might show up in his brochure during the next provincial election.

In any event, I want to say that is the sort of internal conflict that we see weekly within this government, that one end of the horse does not know what the other end is doing.

I think auto insurance again is something that I have to dwell upon. This is certainly an area that I have some knowledge of, as the critic for our party.

This certainly flies in the face of what we heard in testimony before the standing committee on administration of justice on Bill 2 as well when we were talking about the real problem in respect to auto insurance costs in this province, and that is the effective claims costs. We know that the speed is a contributing factor. I am sure that the member will not deny that it is indeed a contributing factor.

When we take a look at the claims costs and the number of accidents in this province, and not only the number of accidents but the resultant costs to repair cars now, especially with the testimony before us with cars with unibody construction, even a very modest accident results in significant costs to repair the new cars. With the computerized cars as well, again there is a significant cost associated with that. As members can appreciate, I am sure, these all have implications for auto insurance costs for all consumers in this province.

I can understand the views of some of his constituents and perhaps the member in this respect, but I think that the member's initiative here was ill thought out in light of the concerns that his own minister has expressed, in light of the continuing brouhaha over insurance costs, which the government has certainly botched up in a significant manner—

Mr. Ballinger: Is that a new beer in Brockville? There's a new beer in Brockville, guys; let's have a can of brewhaha.

Mr. Runciman: See? Now we even have another member of the Liberal party supporting drinking-on the job, I assume. It is very disturbing the initiatives that are forthcoming from this government.

I think that even the member would acknowledge that when the speed limit was 70 miles per hour on Highway 401, the Ontario Provincial Police looked the other way when you went 10 miles per hour over. We do not have enough manpower to police a violation of 10 miles per hour. At 60, virtually everyone driving on the highway is going 70 and the police are looking at people above that limit.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you. The member's time is up.

Mr. Runciman: I think the reality is that you can drive 70 miles per hour. This is an unwise, ill-thought-out initiative and we cannot support it.

1040

Mr. J. B. Nixon: I would like to commend the member for Lambton for the honest and reasonable resolution he has put before the House. I would like to point out to the members who have spoken against this resolution that the member for Lambton is not advocating an across-the-board elimination of speed limits. He is not advocating an across-the-board raising of speed limits. He is advocating that for certain highways, the series 400 highways being a good example, speed limits be raised to a safe level that recognizes reality. That safe level, that realistic level is the comfortable level at which drivers drive today and the comfortable level at which the roads were designed to be driven on.

The object of speed limits, as the members have already alluded, is to balance the goal of public safety and the needs of personal convenience. They argue, and it is generally argued, that speed limits accomplish the following: They reduce highway fatalities and there is a reduction in the annual consumption by the province of petroleum and gasoline. The cost of these benefits is a substantial increase in motorists' travel times. There are hidden costs that are perhaps more significant, such as a loss of respect for the rule of law—more particularly, a law that does not make sense.

The tradeoff of the benefits of the speed limit and its costs are not equal for all highway systems. I think the member for Hamilton East would have to recognize that. Should there be a blanket standard speed limit for all arterial roads, urban and rural, and the series 400 highways in Ontario, or should the standard speed limit

exclude roads that are designed for high-speed driving?

The series 400 highways, as the members will know, have been built to the highest standards, feature multiple lanes, wide medians and controlled access, whereas arterial roads tend to be two-lane roadways with at-grade intersections. They are quite a different animal, quite a different thing to drive on. By setting the same blanket maximum limit for all highways, without regard for their geometric design and safety performance, the speed limit reflects an uneven and insensitive commitment to safety across our road systems.

Whether the current laws governing the speed limit of 100 kilometres per hour need to be altered involves three questions. First, are the benefits of the speed limit of 100 kilometres per hour being eroded by higher speeds and other influences on safety? For instance, anyone who travels the series 400 highways knows that the average real speed is in excess of 100 kilometres per hour. I would ask the member for Hamilton East and the member for Leeds-Grenville (Mr. Runciman) to tell us today in the House whether or not they ever exceed the speed limit of 100 kilometres per hour. Let's recognize reality.

Second, the fatality rate on all roads and highways has declined significantly in the last decade, as the member for Hamilton East outlined. Much of this improvement has not been caused by speed limits, but by continuing improvement to vehicles, to roadways and to medical services, not by improvements to unenforced speed limits. More and more people are travelling our roads and there are diminishing safety benefits attributable to the speed limit of 100 kilometres per hour because of other improvements in safety, such as the mandatory seatbelt law, which have really taken over the primary role of protecting the public.

The third question the members will have to answer is whether noncompliance and motorist frustration ultimately lead to nullification of the law. One of the greatest pressures to increase speed limits is the real behaviour of the majority of motorists. The percentage exceeding the speed limit on the series 400 highways increases every year.

I notice the member for Leeds-Grenville is leaving. I am not sure where he is going. He has lost interest in the debate. He did not demonstrate any when he was standing on his feet. I think we heard a lot about auto insurance premiums and members speaking their minds, but we did not

hear anything about speed limits. I say farewell to the member for Leeds-Grenville.

Mr. Keyes: As he leaves the House.

Mr. J. B. Nixon: As he leaves the House.

Compliance with the law on most highways depends on the voluntary actions of individual motorists, who are apparently increasingly disinclined to obey the speed limits. It seems that most supporters of a speed limit of 100 kilometres per hour right now argue that they should be able to drive at 110, 120 or 130 kilometres per hour without being ticketed, and in so doing they consider themselves in compliance with the spirit of the law. But really, let's accept it: This is noncompliance with the law. The question I ask is whether or not this threatens the integrity of the existing policy.

Third, and a much wider question: Does the widespread violation of the speed limit of 100 kilometres per hour breed disrespect for law in general? Preoccupation with the speed limit laws in fact impedes enforcement of more vital laws, such as those dealing with Criminal Code offences, sexual assault, burglary and murder, and confuses the public about the priority we place on the most important elements of highway safety, such as the use of seatbelts.

Preoccupation with the speed limit encourages the misallocation of enforcement resources. We have an awful lot of police chasing speeders at a time when municipalities and cities are crying out for more funds for police to enforce Criminal Code laws. In fact, while we are tolerating widespread noncompliance, I really think what we are doing is suggesting to the citizens of the province that there are some laws that are worth obeying and some that are not, which at the very least is confusing and I suggest brings into question the ability and propriety of the state actually passing these laws.

I suggest to members that the consequences of higher speeds on the series 400 highways are not great. The series 400 highways were built to the highest design standard capable, greater than any other class of highway in this province or in fact in the country. The direction of traffic on the series 400 highways is usually separated by wide medians or median barriers that greatly reduce the risk of head-on crashes. The series 400 highways have wide shoulders, breakaway signposts, guard-rails, and other physical safety features that minimize crash severity.

Given the goal of speed limits, that of ensuring some modicum of public safety on our highways, one has to ask if there are more effective ways of ensuring public safety. I suggest there really are.

For instance, there are compensating safety policies that can be implemented which will be much more effective in ensuring public safety than imposing blanket universal speed limits. I suggest the generalized blanket application of the universal speed limit is not the best means of achieving public safety. We should be focusing on enforcement of existing laws that relate directly to public safety, such as laws on seatbelt use and impaired driving, and developing new laws to make, for instance, air bag restraints mandatory.

The real problem is in ensuring the safety of the individual involved in a crash. This problem is not solved by applying a blanket speed limit across the board. What the member has suggested is a selective adjustment in existing speed limits on those highways where the public safety is protected by the design of the highway, and where the use of that highway is restricted in a sense by the design features that are developed and implemented for public safety.

Finally, I suggest that this is in no way inconsistent with the recent announcement by the Minister of Transportation to the effect that he would increase the fines and penalties for violation of highway traffic offences. I fully concur with that announcement. I suggest what we have to do is to have a reasonable speed limit. For those who violate it, there should be severe fines and penalties. I say, "Make a reasonable law and enforce it." That is all the member is trying to do with the resolution he has put before us.

I ask all members to consider supporting this resolution. As I said at the outset, I think it is reasonable, honest and worthy of the members' consideration.

1050

Mr. Charlton: I had not intended to speak on this resolution, but the comments of the member for York Mills have prompted me to say a few things here today. As one of those who spends about a quarter of his working week on 400 series highways, I have to say to the member for York Mills and to the member for Lambton that their naïveté and their inability to be observant somewhat distresses me.

First, the average speed on the 400 series highways is already 115 kilometres per hour, not 100. Drivers are in a hurry. The member for York Mills asked the question, and I just conferred with the member for Hamilton East, about whether the member for Hamilton East ever exceeds the speed limit of 100 kilometres per hour, and of course he does.

The reality and the naïveté of what the member is saying, though, is that he wants the average speed on the 400 series highways to be 130 kilometres per hour, not 115, because that is what it already is. Drivers in this province understand that as long as they stay 15 kilometres per hour or less over the speed limit, they may have to pay a financial fine but they will lose no points and they are driving generally within a safe range.

Those of us who spend a large proportion of our time on those 400 series highways, especially those of us who have had the unfortunate opportunity of witnessing some of the disastrous accidents on those highways, do not feel very comfortable seeing the average speed on those highways move from 115 to 130 kilometres per hour, including those of us who have even been involved on occasion with trying to assist people who have been injured in those accidents.

We have a situation where at present the Ontario Provincial Police are running an ad campaign in this province. I suggest to both the member for Lambton and the member for York Mills that they take the time to listen to those ads because those ads are a product of some studies of speed that have been done in this province. Those ads clearly say to us: "The greater the speed, the greater the injury when there is an accident. The greater the speed, the more difficulty there is in stopping the vehicle, regardless of whether the vehicle is in control or out of control."

For every kilometre per hour we add to the average speed on 400 series highways in this province, the greater both the risk of accidents becomes and the greater the damage that results from those accidents becomes. We will turn some accidents that are presently car damage accidents into personal injury accidents, and we will move some of those accidents that are already personal injury accidents up to the category of death accidents. I do not think that is what any of us wants.

If you go out on to the 400 series highways and spend a little time observing what is going on around you, you will begin to understand the folly of even contemplating increasing the legal speed limit on those highways to 115 kilometres per hour. The cars we have today are in some respects slightly safer than they were 20 years ago, and they are in some respects less safe because of the initiatives that have been taken to make cars lighter, to increase mileage and all of the other things that have been going on over the course of the last 20 years.

To put those cars and the passengers and drivers of those cars into the situation, as we inevitably will, of having more accidents—we will because it is harder to stop at higher speeds—and to put more of those drivers into the situation of killing someone is in my view, at this stage of our development, tantamount to insane.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. M. C. Ray): The time remaining permits only the wrapup by the member for Lambton.

Mr. Smith: Certainly, I want to thank all the members who have participated in the debate on this resolution. As I have heard some of the comments, I wonder who are the naïve ones.

I have driven for 34 years now. I have been lucky, I suppose. I have never had an accident. I have seen many accidents. I have driven in all kinds of conditions. As I said in my opening remarks, I have driven an 18-wheeler to Toronto, so I know what that is like, but I still go along with the general feeling that trucks should drive somewhat more slowly than the general car and light truck traffic.

I want to say to the members who object to this resolution that the statistics I have here—these are from the Ministry of Transportation—say that in 1976 we had 211,000 accidents; in 1977, we had 218,000; in 1978, we had 286,000. We have never had that many accidents since then. It looks to me as if, as they allowed the speed limit to go back up, the accidents actually came down in numbers, because in 1979 they came back down to 197,000. Even in the year 1987, we were back to only 203,000. I say “only,” but I am making comparisons here. We have to go back to the year 1974 to have that same number.

I believe that if we want to be realistic about what is happening out there on the highways, we are not endangering any more people by allowing the speed limit to come up to 115 kilometres an hour on the 400 series highways. Some people argue that the general traffic would go up to 130 kilometres. I do not believe that. I believe the traffic would change very little, but as it shows in statistics from the Ministry of Transportation, if you are allowed to drive at about 115 kilometres—I travel these highways every week—that is the general flow of traffic. I have slowed down to 100 kilometres and I was a nuisance on the highway.

The other thing I want to bring out is that I think there could be other changes made, and I believe the Ministry of Transportation is working on some of them. These are items I have noticed work well for me. They have certainly helped me get through bad weather conditions.

If you go to amber fog lamps—I have driven down the highway and I drive in all kinds of snowy or foggy weather—you can turn your headlights out and drive with fog lamps on and you can see further than the people who are flashing their lights at you saying you do not have your lights on. But that is not the fact. I have had fog lamps for quite a number of years. They are amber coloured. I think we should put them on the brake lamps, especially the high one that they have in the back window now. That registers more quickly on the eye and I think that would be an advantage.

Having driven a truck, I know there is a vacuum created behind a truck as it is travelling down the road. I think we should raise the brake lamps there to a higher level and possibly make them amber as well.

I certainly understand when some people say that speed causes accidents, but it is a combination of a lot of things. If members are realistic about what is happening out there on the highways today, they would have to say that I am not asking for a crazy speed limit. I am asking for a realistic speed limit; maybe then the police can get on with the business other people are asking them to do.

1100

NIAGARA ESCARPMENT

Mr. Elliot moved resolution 65:

That, in the opinion of this House, recognizing the importance of the Niagara Escarpment as a significant feature of Ontario's natural heritage, and that the varying uses of the escarpment lands for farming, tourism, housing and aggregate extraction have a significant impact on that land, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs should be directed to ensure that any development or use of Niagara Escarpment lands be environmentally sustainable development; and that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs be further directed to maintain heritage and environmental concerns as priorities when considering land use planning within the Niagara Escarpment boundaries.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. M. C. Ray): The member is reminded that he has up to 20 minutes for his presentation and may reserve any portion thereof for his windup.

Mr. Elliot: Environmentally sustainable development must be a priority along the Niagara Escarpment. Environmentally sustainable development does not mean no development; it means development that preserves our future.

In my motion, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs is directed to maintain heritage and

environmental concerns as priority concerns when considering land use planning within the Niagara Escarpment boundaries.

A ribbon of green trees and grey limestone zigzags across Ontario from Niagara Falls to Tobermory. It runs from Niagara Falls to the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton. It runs to Crawford Lake Conservation Area in Milton. It runs to the Forks of the Credit in Caledon. It runs through the beautiful Hockley Valley, past Collingwood, along the Blue Mountain, up the Bruce Peninsula to Tobermory and beyond to Flowerpot Island.

Last Saturday, February 18, 1989, 12 environmental groups met in Holy Cross Church hall in Georgetown. They held a day-long workshop. They formed a coalition to make all levels of government more aware of their concerns. They care about what we are doing to the Niagara Escarpment. They feel strongly that lands designated as Niagara Escarpment lands must be protected. Each group made a presentation. Each presentation was to last 10 minutes. They stretched into the half-hour mark and the concerns coalesced into one main theme: environmentally sustainable development along the Niagara Escarpment.

I will read the names of the 12 groups, for the very names tell a story in themselves: the Citizens Network on Waste Management, the Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment, the Caledon Ratepayers Association, Greensville Against Serious Pollution, Keep the Environment Environmentally Protected, Puslinch Quarry Expansion, Glenridge Landfill Concerned Citizens Committee, the Hockley Valley Improvement Association, the Cheltenham Park Preservation Group, Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources, Ecology Awareness Group Landscape and Environment, and finally, the Bruce Trail Association, Halton chapter.

The story told by these names is one of hundreds of concerned and caring citizens. They want waste stopped. They want us to stop relying on technical solutions. They want us to have a different attitude towards the environment. They want us, in our very own backyards, to do things right.

From Cootes Paradise outside Dundas to the Beaver Valley, the Niagara Escarpment lands sit on top of the Amabel aquifer, one of the main water sources for rivers flowing into Lake Ontario, Lake Huron and Georgian Bay. Eight of the 12 groups were concerned about specific quarries and/or garbage being dumped into quarries. Seven of the quarry sites are on

escarpment lands. All groups are convinced Niagara Escarpment quarries are not acceptable landfill sites. We cannot risk polluting our water supply with the leachate naturally produced by garbage in a landfill.

The Niagara Escarpment is a significant feature of Ontario's natural heritage. Farming, tourism, housing and aggregate extraction have a significant impact on that land.

The good news is that we have the means to address our citizens' concerns: the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act as amended in 1982. Section 2 reads, "The purpose of this act is to provide for the maintenance of the Niagara Escarpment and land in its vicinity substantially as a continuous natural environment, and to ensure only such development occurs as is compatible with that natural environment."

Section 8 reads: "The Niagara Escarpment plan may contain, (a) policies for the economic, social and physical development of the Niagara Escarpment planning area in respect of, (i) the management of land and water resources, (ii) the general distribution and density of population, (iii) the general location of industry and commerce, the identification of major land use areas and the provision of major parks and open space... (iv) the control of all forms of pollution of the natural environment, (v) the general location and development of major servicing, communication and transportation systems, (vi) the development and maintenance of educational, cultural, recreational, health and other social facilities."

Clause 8(b) says the plan may contain "policies to co-ordinate the planning and development programs of the various ministries for the Niagara Escarpment planning area."

Clause 8(c) says the plan may contain "policies designed to ensure compatibility of development by the private sector."

All land within the Niagara Escarpment planning area has been assigned one of seven different designations. Each such category has accompanying land use policies stating permitted uses and lot creation guidelines. The three major designations—escarpment natural, escarpment protection and escarpment rural—compose 90 per cent of the plan area. The remaining 10 per cent is encompassed by the minor urban centre, the urban area, the escarpment recreation area and mineral resource extraction area designations.

The Niagara Escarpment plan was approved on June 12, 1985. The Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act was passed in

June 1973. The honourable member for Simcoe West (Mr. McCague) was appointed the first Niagara Escarpment Commission chairman in September 1973. Regulation 118/74, defining the Niagara Escarpment planning area, evolved into the Niagara Escarpment plan of 1985. The Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Eakins) has been responsible for that plan since September 1987. The member for Ottawa East (Mr. Grandmaitre) was responsible for the plan from August 1985 to September 1987. Many highly desirable initiatives have been started since 1985. I will highlight three of them briefly.

The first relates to mineral aggregate extraction. In order to preserve the Niagara Escarpment as a continuous natural feature, the Ontario government has decided wayside permits will not be issued for provincial road construction projects in the escarpment natural and protection area designations. All references to high potential mineral aggregate resources, mapping and textural, have been removed from the plan. New licensed pits and quarries producing over 20,000 tonnes per year will be permitted only in escarpment rural designations and only following an amendment to the plan.

To meet the needs of municipalities, provision has been made for wayside pits in escarpment protection and escarpment rural designations. However, aggregate for municipal road construction may be obtained only from sites previously used for pit operations in the escarpment protection designation. Authority to issue development permits for aggregate extraction will be retained by the Niagara Escarpment Commission.

The second initiative relates to land acquisition stewardship. A Niagara Escarpment fund has been established by the Ontario Heritage Foundation to receive donations for escarpment land acquisitions. Expenditures from the fund have been directed as follows: (a) acquisition of lands to complete the park system, including lands required for the Bruce Trail, and (b) among other activities to promote and support responsible stewardship of escarpment heritage properties, the Ontario government's commitment to \$2.5 million per year for a 10-year period.

The third initiative is a tax rebate program for class 1, 2 and 3 wetlands, nonrevenue-producing conservation authority lands, escarpment natural areas and conservation lands owned by nonprofit organizations.

Less than 200 years ago, the beautiful ribbon of green along the Niagara Escarpment stretched as far as the eye could see in all directions. The

Iroquoian Indians of that time and place developed a unique and worthwhile custom which we might do well to adopt. In some tribes, decisions made in council session, for example, were always subject to the scrutiny of one wise elder. The wise elder's sole responsibility was to check decisions before they were final against one very significant criterion: each decision had to be considered for its effect on the next seven generations or it was not implemented.

My son is the seventh generation of Elliots to live in Ontario. Our family came here from Scotland in 1814. My great-great-grandfather, Adam Scott Elliot, was two years old in 1814 when he arrived in Ontario. His father helped clear 500 acres of prime forest near Perth, Ontario, 100 acres for himself and 100 acres for each of his first four sons. The settlers cleared the forest and the entire area because they needed the land to grow food. They burned most of the timber.

In the 1850s, Adam Scott Elliot moved to Bruce county. He and his son William founded the town of Chesley near Owen Sound. They also helped clear most of the forest from that area, again to grow food. Most of the lumber this time, though, was used in building. They built grist mills, foundries, sawmills, founded a bank and established limestone kilns and gravel pits. It was an exciting time in Ontario. There was unbridled and extensive development with no worry about the seventh generation.

1110

My colleague the member for Grey (Mr. Lipsett) will be speaking to this motion later. A large proportion of the Niagara Escarpment is in his riding, the county of Grey.

The other branch of my family, the Cain family, helped open up Grey county. My great-uncles Frank and Dick Cain, and the Brownlee family on that side of the family, helped build roads and worked in gravel pits and quarries. When development slowed in the early 1900s, their boss, a man named Butchart, moved to British Columbia and they went with him. If you are ever in Victoria, visit Butchart Gardens, a beautiful rehabilitated quarry.

I mention these facts to underline my personal involvement with the development of this province. But we are all involved and must all care about the effects of development on our seventh generation. Environmentally sustainable development must include the preservation of the Niagara Escarpment. There are mineral resources on escarpment land. There are forest, recreational and tourist areas on escarpment

land. There are farms now on escarpment land. There are private residences on escarpment lands.

The time for a promised five-year review is approaching. That review must address the compatibility of the many presently accepted uses of escarpment land. That review must place the preservation of the Niagara Escarpment's natural and protected areas as a top priority in all land use plans in Ontario.

This is Ontario Heritage Week. The Niagara Escarpment is one of our finest natural heritages. This week, all of us should resolve to visit one of the many parks in the Niagara Escarpment. We will enjoy the experience, whether we visit Rattlesnake Point in Milton, Niagara Falls, the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton, the Forks of the Credit, Blue Mountain or Flowerpot Island. What a terrific time to recommend to preserve our great natural heritage, the Niagara Escarpment, by committing to environmentally sustainable development.

I will reserve my remaining time for wrapup.

Mr. Charlton: I rise to support the resolution placed here today by the member for Halton North. I commend him for the views he has expressed here today regarding the Niagara Escarpment and its protection.

Having said that I support the resolution, I have to say it is unfortunate that we have to be here even debating it today. It is unfortunate, as the member for Halton North has mentioned, that we are going to have to go through this five-year review. The process that we have been through around the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act has been a lengthy one, a thorough one and, on occasion, a very heated one, as disputes over the last 15 years have been hot and heavy and sometimes very politically acrimonious.

I recall that in 1984 the former member for Welland-Thorold, Mel Swart, and myself were out on the road along the escarpment in an attempt to fight a number of the very issues which the member for Halton North has raised here today in terms of the need to protect the escarpment. Two of those issues were aggregate extraction issues, one in Fonthill down in the Niagara Peninsula and one at Speyside, just around this corner of the end of the lake. The third issue was in the Beaver Valley. It was not an aggregate extraction issue. It was a pollution issue around a proposal for another rather large sewage lagoon to service a proposed new resort.

The reason we had to be out there on the road, along with a number of other environmentalists

fighting those issues, was not because the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act is not a good piece of legislation, because it is a very good piece of legislation. Again, the member for Halton North read into the record a number of the sections and the protections that they provide. It is excellent legislation. There are some of us who would have wished that the actual boundaries of the Niagara Escarpment planning area had been the old boundaries under the original legislation—the larger boundaries, rather than the more restricted boundaries of the final act—but aside from that it is a good, enforceable piece of legislation.

We were out there on the road fighting those issues for one reason alone: because of the ability in the act to appeal the decisions of the Niagara Escarpment Commission, to the politicians and the cabinet of Ontario. I would seriously encourage the member for Halton North in his drive to see the maximum protection for the escarpment maintained into the future, for the next seven, eight or 10 generations, to lobby with his colleagues to see during the five-year review—which I wish we did not have to have at all—some minor amendments might be made to the act to remove some of the loopholes that ultimately make that very good, protective piece of legislation subject to the political whims of the day.

The member will understand that all of his colleagues in his own party will not always, on every day of every week, be as concerned about the escarpment as he is. That is probably true of my colleagues and my own party as well. He is also fully aware that the present party in power, even if its intention is to provide the absolute maximum protection for the escarpment, will not always be there, either. To leave those kinds of loopholes in this kind of excellent legislation, where developers then can subject politicians to pressure to cause other decisions to happen, will always be a threat to natural environments like the Niagara Escarpment.

It is important that we make those changes and get rid of those loopholes. If we are really serious as a society, as a province, as the citizens and the government of this province, in providing the maximum protection for the Niagara Escarpment, then let's do it by taking out of the legislation those things that may threaten it down the road.

I recall, just along those lines, going through an unfortunate process. It was unfortunate in the sense that the former government on a number of occasions used the very sections I am talking

about to provide exemptions or to overturn Niagara Escarpment Commission decisions. Unfortunately, I cannot even remember the names. There was one decision on the escarpment, in the Brampton area in the early 1980s, which was a very controversial one. Those are examples of how the political process and political pressure on politicians threaten the very essence of the kind of protection that I think I support, that I think the member for Halton North supports and that I know a goodly number of other members of this Legislature support.

In summing up, I wholeheartedly support the intent of the resolution of the member for Halton North, I wholeheartedly support the kinds of comments he has put on the record here today; and in the review that is going to occur of the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act, I wholeheartedly support maintaining the protective strengths in that legislation.

1120

But let's be frank and understand the weaknesses that are there and, as legislators who are concerned about the escarpment, let's be prepared to deal with those weaknesses in a straightforward way, not just to pat ourselves on the backs for a good piece of legislation but to be prepared in a straightforward way to deal with those weaknesses, to plug the loopholes, to take that very important piece of legislation in terms of the ultimate appeal out of the hands of politicians, who in the past have been subject to political pressure and in the future may again fall subject to political pressure and lobbying.

Let's remove those weaknesses from the legislation and ensure that the decisions of the people who run the Niagara Escarpment Commission, the people who review in detail the applications for development on the escarpment, the people who understand the legislation in detail and understand the environment they are trying to protect in detail, will be decisions in the escarpment's favour for all time to come in our future.

Mr. Pollock: I appreciate the opportunity to participate in this morning's debate. It is close to 20 years since the government commissioned the Gertler study. This conservation and recreation report brought to the attention of all of us what a treasure we have in the Niagara Escarpment and how important it was to preserve it for the people of Ontario. It was following many reports, investigations and much controversy that we finally saw the Niagara Escarpment plan put into place.

I understand that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs has commissioned a report which is to examine the management and administration of the commission. The report, known as the Cresap report, has very many recommendations, including the recommendation that one body be responsible for the implementation of the plan and that the ministry be responsible for policy and program leadership; also that the ministry be required to establish some clear priorities for programs and that it should attempt to increase its accountability, and that some streamlining of legislation that governs the Niagara Escarpment Commission take place.

It is unfortunate that my colleague the member for Carleton (Mr. Sterling) is not here today. I know that we all would want him to participate in this debate and I also realize that he would be making his comments on some very good authority.

I understand from reading the estimates of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs that the administration of the Niagara Escarpment plan came under some rather close scrutiny. I also understand that the Cresap report made some recommendations on how the Niagara Escarpment program monitored development in the area and stated that the monitoring needed to be tightened up.

I must also say that I am somewhat concerned about other remarks that the member for Carleton made in Municipal Affairs estimates. He questioned whether in fact the Niagara Escarpment plan should be handled by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs at all. I am sure that all members will realize that the member for Carleton was extensively involved in drafting the Niagara Escarpment plan through his work as Provincial Secretary for Resources Development.

Incidentally, I noticed that the Niagara Escarpment plan, which is available from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, and is a rather large package I might add, still bears the name of the member for Carleton, and I might say that here is some of the work that the member for Carleton has done. This is a clear tribute to the ability and the high degree of success that the member for Carleton achieved in this capacity. The government has recognized, to its credit, that to remove the name of the member for Carleton from this material would be highly inappropriate, especially since he was the one who did the work on it.

The member for Carleton wonders, as I do, whether or not the protection of the Niagara Escarpment would be better ensured if the

administration of this plan was removed from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs over to the Ministry of the Environment. It seems that he encountered some rather substantial opposition from the people within the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and, in fact, at one point felt that there was a lot of pressure to do away with the Provincial Secretariat for Resources Development altogether.

There does seem to be a problem with the municipalities going up against the escarpment commission, and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs is left to come up with some sort of compromise. The problem stems from the fact that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs is concerned with municipal development rather than land conservation. As the member for Carleton stated, "Putting the escarpment plan in the hands of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs is like putting Colonel Sanders in charge of the chicken coop."

The Progressive Conservative government recognized the uniqueness of the Niagara Escarpment and that the general planning laws of the province were not sufficient to deal with this very special area. In drafting the escarpment plan, the Progressive Conservatives struck a balance between the need to both develop and conserve by dividing the powers between the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development, to represent environmental interests, and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, to represent the development interests of the local municipality.

I believe that the Niagara Escarpment is unique to the province, and I am very supportive of the resolution of the member for Halton North here this morning to protect the Niagara Escarpment. I have supported the Ministry of Natural Resources' program to protect our wetlands and I am very supportive of our local conservation authorities. They have done an excellent job of protecting certain areas of our environment.

They have put in dams, they protect some of the natural habitat, and I believe that these conservation authorities should be left in place in the way they are. They are local people looking after local interests. We should not only protect the Niagara Escarpment, but I believe we should be very involved in protecting our good farm land, especially around the city of Toronto.

I can remember when the present Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) used to get up here in the early 1980s and rant and rave about how the good farm land was being covered up with concrete. Since he has been the Minister of Agriculture and Food, there is more good farm

land being covered up, and it is being covered up at an increasing rate.

I have heard the comments floating around in the media that there are some people who want to raise that old argument to have the Pickering airport proposal brought back. I am totally opposed to that. The Pickering airport would be placed on excellent farm land. There are two other airports in eastern Ontario. One, of course, is the military airport at Trenton, and there is another airport over at Mountain View that is getting very little use. That airport at Mountain View is on nothing but flat rock. There are literally thousands of acres of flat rock. If they want another airport, there is a good place to put it. I cannot think we should be covering up our good farm land in that way.

I not only would like to mention that we should protect our farm land, but we should protect our crown land. I was at Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters convention in Windsor last week, as you were, Mr. Speaker, and I heard you bring greetings from your particular constituency. I appreciated your being there and meeting with the other people. The minister spoke there and after the minister had spoken—

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Mr. Ballinger: He did a great job.

Mr. Pollock: The member for Durham-York was not even there to listen to him. He did not go to even listen to his own minister.

Mr. Villeneuve: And he is supposed to be in charge of something or other.

Mr. Pollock: Yes, he is supposed to be in charge.

Anyway, after the minister spoke, they had a question-and-answer session and one of the people who got up to the microphone asked the minister if there was any truth to this rumour floating around that large areas, in some cases whole lakes, were going to be sold to a foreign interest. The questioner seemed to feel that these rumours were well founded. I am certainly concerned about that; I am every bit as concerned about that as I am concerned about the situation with regard to the Niagara Escarpment.

Once again, I would like to compliment the member for Halton North on his resolution. I think it is a very worthwhile resolution. We should protect our natural heritage and our environment in these particular areas.

Mr. Lipsett: I rise today to support the resolution proposed this morning by my colleague the member for Halton North. The priority of sustainable growth that is environ-

mentally sound is very important as we plan our future growth within the boundaries of the Niagara Escarpment, and any other part of the province for that matter.

As stated at the time, the plan was given cabinet approval. It was intended to serve as a framework of objectives and policies to strike a balance between development, preservation and the enjoyment of this very important resource.

I believe this debate is an excellent opportunity to evaluate our progress to date, recognize the differences in the way the plan impacts on local municipalities, counties and regions along this 725-kilometre height of land extending from Niagara to Tobermory, and finally to set priorities and recommend changes that could be considered in the five-year review that happens next year.

I am most familiar with the natural landscape and scenic beauty of the escarpment features in Grey and Bruce counties; therefore, I would like to base my remarks on the Niagara Escarpment as it applies to my riding of Grey county and the impact of the plan on this area.

First, over 158,000 acres of the total land area designated under the plan is located in Grey county. Of the 37 local municipalities in the four regions and five counties that are affected by the approved plan, 11 are in Grey county. Whereas in many areas the planning area size is very narrow as it passes through a municipality, in our area it generally encompasses a very wide band.

The escarpment actually enters Grey county at the eastern county boundary at Blue Mountain in Collingwood township. It then thrusts deep into the centre of the county, down the east side of the Beaver Valley through Euphrasia and Artemesia townships to the village of Flesherton. It then turns back up the west side of the valley, again passing through Artemesia and Euphrasia townships to St. Vincent township and the town of Meaford. It then follows a very fragmented pattern west through St. Vincent township, Holland township, Sydenham township, and northeast back into Sydenham township at the Meaford artillery range.

It heads west once more, again through Sydenham township, encircling the city of Owen Sound and then north along the west shore of Georgian Bay through Sarawak and Keppel townships. At this point, it leaves my riding as it proceeds through Wiarton and up the east side of the Bruce Peninsula.

As a result of this winding path of the designated escarpment natural area and the accompanying designations of escarpment pro-

tection and escarpment rural, almost 35 per cent of the total 453 acres in the plan are located in Grey county.

As each and every one of us learns more about the history and heritage of this significant and scenic landmark in our midst, I believe that public support to preserve this area for the benefit of present and future generations is increasing. However, conflicts in opinion occur, when indeed some not only want to see the escarpment, explore it or experience the breathtaking views from its highest points but also want to establish seasonal or permanent residence in or near it or see an opportunity to establish a business or service in the vicinity.

As a result, the objectives of preservation and the expectations of developers come into conflict. Accusations of preservationists being extremists and developers having no regard for the interests of the general public are issued. Then, as stated at the time of cabinet approval for the plan, the balance between preservation objectives and individual property rights becomes essential to the successful implementation of this land use plan.

Tourism is considered by many as a logical growth industry within the escarpment boundaries, based on the principle of public access to enjoyment of this important resource. Tourism opportunities in the vicinity of the Niagara Escarpment in my riding include hiking, skiing, fishing, hunting, boating, windsurfing, swimming and snowmobiling, to mention a few. As I mentioned before, these attractions result in a demand for permanent residences, seasonal residences, time-sharing condominiums, support service industries and retail outlets.

In this regard, I believe a Grey county planning department recommendation has merit. The county planners suggest that, in some areas, appropriately selected locations for subdivision development could be a better approach than the present one, two or more lot severances permitted to each eligible land owner, which leads to sporadic lot creation.

With the five-year review approaching, this is an opportune time to assess land use designation, boundaries and removal of controls where local official plans and zoning bylaws conform with the Niagara plan. Some regions, Halton being a good example, have already been able to achieve total confirmation of local plans in the Niagara Escarpment plan. Development controls have been removed in portions of Collingwood township in my riding. Planning documents are proceeding in other municipalities, but due to

staff limitations, completion dates for some are still some years away.

Further, I agree with my colleague that, indeed, for areas of very significant heritage or environmentally delicate areas, we must convey our support and encouragement to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and the Ontario Heritage Foundation to continue to acquire privately owned escarpment lands. These purchases will create a series of Niagara Escarpment parks to make our escarpment area more accessible to the public to enjoy and provide a very positive alternative to relying entirely on regulations and restrictions on private property.

It has been a privilege to have the opportunity this morning to recognize the importance of the Niagara Escarpment and to assess our priorities for preservation and land use planning within its boundaries.

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Mr. Villeneuve: It is also a pleasure and an honour for me to participate in the debate today on the member for Halton North's (Mr. Elliot) resolution. Certainly, our party and I personally will be supporting strongly the private member's motion.

It is always interesting to see a member from the government party bring on this type of resolution. Quite obviously there is a message there, a message that there is not a great deal of faith in the ministry responsible for looking after and caring for that very fine natural area, the Niagara Escarpment.

Coming from the eastern part of the province, I do not very often get the opportunity of visiting that great part of Ontario known as part of the Golden Horseshoe. However, I strongly support the protection of the natural beauty that is in the area and trying to prevent some of the schemes we know are out there to develop areas that should stay exactly the way nature laid them out many thousands of years ago.

From Niagara to Tobermory, I think we have some of the finest tourist areas we can find anywhere in North America. Four seasons exist there, as they do across most of Canada, and certainly the charm of the Niagara Escarpment in all seasons is something to behold and something to make sure we maintain.

I am often very flabbergasted at some of the things that occur and I will compare some of the things that happen in the riding I represent. For instance, this very week we had an Ontario Municipal Board appeal hearing looking at a request for a severance that would have occurred in a very marginal area. I will not go into the

details, but it is a five-acre parcel of very marginal land. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food, in its wisdom, saw fit to oppose, and oppose vehemently any sort of land division that would allow a second rural dwelling to be established on this very marginal land in the county of Glengarry.

To me, common sense does not prevail when we have areas such as the many marginal areas in eastern Ontario. As my colleague the member for Hastings-Peterborough (Mr. Pollock) alluded, they could be doing anything but doing nothing, which they are in many instances right now.

We have here a private member's motion to try to protect a beautiful area, the Niagara Escarpment. Again, I compliment the member for Halton North, but this same government is preventing and creating artificial shortages of lots that municipalities are fully in favour of developing for rural housing that is needed. Artificial shortages are being created, and in areas that are very marginal, most marginal.

The soil maps indicate it is class 4 or inferior soil, not having been farmed in any way, shape or form, not having been replanted to trees, simply doing nothing, growing some goldenrod and willows, and again we have the government of Ontario, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food in particular, standing up and fighting the approval of land divisions where municipalities involved are agreeable that yes, it should be used as residential housing.

I represent a rural riding that has gone down in population over the last 20 years, yet we are trying to maintain our small rural towns in that section of Ontario, which does have a lot of marginal land. Common sense seems to be eluding the government of the day.

I strongly endorse maintaining the beautiful area from the Blue Mountains to the Niagara Gorge and the beautiful area between which has been developed for tourism, which brings people from all across North America and Europe to visit and spend time and money in the Golden Horseshoe section of Ontario.

We must decentralize. We must bring the population away from the downtown core, from the beautiful, natural areas of the Niagara Escarpment. We must not develop those into industrial or other economically incompatible uses. We must maintain the natural beauty.

In summation, common sense must prevail. When common sense prevails, we maintain those beautiful areas we have while still allowing for the development and residential accommodation that the people of Ontario must have, and

especially, not necessarily in those centres such as the city of Toronto where housing is certainly most people's ability to purchase.

We speak of housing in Metropolitan Toronto at \$350,000 plus for an average home, and yet we can go down to those areas in rural Ontario. The government has created an artificial shortage and has put pressure on the Niagara Escarpment by not using common sense. That is what it is doing.

In summation, I want to again emphasize that the Niagara Escarpment must be protected. The natural beauty is there and it must not be tampered with, but let's not be ridiculous and prevent rural residences going into some of our marginal areas, which will help our rural municipalities, help their tax base and provide funding for the schools in those areas. The services are all in place. Let's use common sense.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order, please. We are on time-limited speeches here. I am sure the member for Durham West (Mrs. Stoner) would appreciate the attention of the House.

Mrs. Stoner: I would like to open my remarks by congratulating the member for Halton North on his resolution. I wholeheartedly endorse it.

In recognizing the significance of the Niagara Escarpment in Ontario's natural heritage, this resolution calls on the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to ensure that development or use of the Niagara Escarpment lands be "environmentally sustainable development." Maintenance of heritage and environmental concerns are to be priorities when considering land use planning within the escarpment boundaries.

The key to planning the Niagara Escarpment and other sensitive areas is found in the term "environmentally sustainable development." Governments at all levels must shoulder their responsibilities, their share of the burden for defining and protecting those areas of environmental sensitivity.

We must all practise good land husbandry. We are entrusted with the stewardship of the resources of the future. We must ensure our natural heritage is enhanced rather than destroyed by this generation. We must ensure we have something worthy of passing on to the next generations.

The people of Ontario, and indeed the rest of Canada, are becoming more aware and more vocal about preservation of the natural environment than they ever were before. They are speaking out about inappropriately located land-fill sites, roads and quarries that do not acknowl-

edge sensitive areas, large-scale developments that gobble up prime agricultural land and improper forestry practices.

Communities and individuals are eloquently stating their support for our natural environment, support for our river valleys, for our wetlands and woodlands, our sand dunes, our beaches and our lakes. They are expressing concern too about the preservation of our heritage: our architectural heritage, our archaeological sites and our archives.

Key to environmentally sensitive and sustainable development is co-operation on all fronts, the bringing together of government, environmental groups, industry, business, labour and the agricultural sector to form one solid front. The Ontario Round Table on Environment and Economy is an excellent example of the kind of co-operation that is required to plan responsibly for the future.

When he announced the membership of the round table last fall, the Premier (Mr. Peterson) said the panel will be planning the future directions that will ensure the long-term health of both the environment and the economy of Ontario.

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As well, I commend the work that is being done by the National Task Force on Environment and Economy, which was established by the Canadian Council of Resource and Environment Ministers. Among the recommendations of the task force was the formation of round tables in each province and territory and at the federal level. In a recent publication in response to the task force, the Conservation Council of Ontario said that it will have a profound effect on the long-term management of the economy and the environment.

The Conservation Council of Ontario article pointed out that although there has been talk about the need to marry environmental issues with economic decision-making, it had never happened until now. We are now finding that leading government and industry representatives are supportive of co-operation.

One of the responsibilities of the Ontario round table is to put together a strategy for sustainable development. We have to recognize other sensitive areas as well as the Niagara Escarpment, such as the Rouge River valley, the Duffin Creek system, the Muskoka-Georgian Bay area and many other areas. We have to ensure, and we have a moral obligation to care for and preserve for future generations, not only a strong economy but also a strong ecology.

Mr. Elliot: I would like to thank all the honourable members who spoke in support of my resolution. I would like to comment a little bit on two or three of the comments made by members of the official opposition and of the third party, particularly with respect to the comment made by the member for Hamilton-Mountain (Mr. Charlton), with whom I have shared many meetings in committees. He always comes to committees well prepared, is thought-provoking and does an excellent job from an opposition point of view.

I have to use his statement with respect to not needing a review as an opportunity to talk a little bit about the complexity of the problems we face today in a province like Ontario. I want to indicate to him that without a review component in solving a problem, you really do not have a complete circle, and you cannot, on a continuous basis, really worry about the kinds of things I have highlighted today, and that means the next seven generations of people who will reside in Ontario.

The awareness stage of the Niagara Escarpment plan happened prior to 1973. From 1973 until 1985, there was a long, involved developmental stage. We have been experiencing the implementation stage since 1985. A lot of very good work has been done. The fourth component of any valid problem you solve is the review process, which really starts again at the awareness stage. You redevelop the solution and make it more and more perfect all the time. He said the present plan is excellent; what we should be working towards is a perfect plan.

With respect to the comments from the honourable member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (Mr. Villeneuve), I have shared since 1971 some of the concerns at the lack of proper use of what I call marginal land for building permits. I support him in that completely.

I would like to thank particularly my two colleagues, the member for Grey and the member for Durham West. Obviously, the member for Grey is interested: 35 per cent of the Niagara Escarpment is in his riding of Grey; 35 per cent of Grey is escarpment. Those of us who come from that part of the country know Grey county is approximately 70 miles long and 40 miles wide, so we are talking about an escarpment planning area of approximately 2,800 square miles. That is a significant feature, and to point out the value he places on it is a very significant comment indeed.

The honourable member for Durham West expanded the whole dialogue to encompass the province of Ontario by mentioning a significant

number of other areas that should be treated in exactly the same way as the Niagara Escarpment should be treated. I compliment her on that visionary approach.

I mentioned in my opening remarks the compatibility of development by the private sector. The definition in the dictionary for compatibility is "capable of existing or operating together in harmony." I thought I should take a moment or two of my windup to talk about the seven designations and comment on salient features of each of them.

For example, on the "escarpment natural" designation, I think there is unanimity. Everyone agrees that should be inviolate; one should not infringe upon those areas at all. "Escarpment protection" is really put in place to maintain the remaining natural features and the open rural landscape character of the escarpment and lands in its vicinity. "Escarpment rural" should provide a buffer to the more ecologically sensitive areas of the escarpment.

As my colleague the member for Grey pointed out, in "escarpment recreation area," this may involve clusters of buildings—single-family buildings—going in. In "minor urban centre," the main designation and criterion that is important is that we should be maintaining from a heritage point of view our rural hamlets that encompass almost all of the escarpment from one end to the other. In "urban area," I think the significant thing is that we must minimize the impact and further encroachment of urban growth on the escarpment environment.

I have already highlighted "escarpment recreation area" in commenting on the comments of my colleague the member for Grey. For "mineral resource extraction area," the key thing I would like to highlight is the fact that we must consider rehabilitation as per the Butchart Gardens example that I used in my opening remarks.

In conclusion, the preservation of Niagara Escarpment lands must be a priority in land use planning in Ontario. In the five-year review of the Niagara Escarpment plan, compatibility of land use must be revisited. What do we mean by single-family dwellings in natural, protected and rural areas? Does it make sense to be using A1 and A2 agricultural land for commercial and industrial development in some parts of Ontario, while at the same time not allowing clusters of single-family dwellings on A3, A4, A5, A6 and A7 lands in "rural escarpment protection" designated areas?

While we must preserve the "natural" and "protected" designations, I think some of those

rural lands should be developed. Does it make sense to landfill our garbage in leaking quarries when the real solution to the problem is in reuse, recycling, composting and reduction?

Water is a prime concern in discussing the preservation of the Niagara Escarpment. Water permits have been granted to owners of quarries on escarpment lands. These permits allow as much as one million gallons of potable water per day to be pumped into the nearest creek or river. One million gallons of water, I am told, will service between 4,000 and 5,000 households.

Our natural heritage, housing, waste management and agricultural land are all part of my caring concern for the Niagara Escarpment. How we treat this unique natural phenomenon will be a key signal of the heart of this 34th Parliament of Ontario for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker: That completes the allotted time for debate on ballot item 65 and ballot item 66.

1205

SPEED LIMITS

The House divided on Mr. Smith's motion of

resolution 64, which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes

Bossy, Kozyra, Lipsett, Mancini, Matrondola, Miclash, Miller, Nixon, J. B., Smith, D., South.

Nays

Ballinger, Black, Charlton, Cleary, Collins, Cooke, D. S., Daigeler, Elliot, Epp, Farnan, Faubert, Fleet, Grier, Kanter, Keyes, Laughren, LeBourdais, Leone, Lupusella, Mackenzie, McCague, McLean, Morin, Nicholas, Oddie Munro, Offer, Philip, E., Pollock, Pouliot, Rae, B., Roberts, Runciman, Ruprecht, Sola, Stoner, Tatham, Villeneuve, Wilson.

Ayes 10; nays 38.

NIAGARA ESCARPMENT

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Elliot has moved resolution 65.

Motion agreed to.

The House recessed at 12:07 p.m.

AFTERNOON SITTING

The House resumed at 1:30 p.m.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Mr. Mackenzie: One of the more unfortunate occurrences in the course of the life of this parliament is the denial, for that is all it can be called, of the right of injured workers, their organizations and their friends to appear before a committee of this Legislature dealing with Bill 162. This legislation will affect the lives of injured workers in Ontario from now on. It is the most major piece of legislation affecting injured workers that has come before this House.

I think it is important to once again point out the events of last Friday when injured workers confronted the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara) in Hamilton and told him how frustrated and unhappy they were over the fact that almost two thirds of the organizations in Hamilton would not be heard as a result of the limitation. The Minister of Labour told them that it was none of his doing, that it was done by the committee, that the committee set its own schedule and that, if they were unhappy with that schedule, they should go back to the committee. This was on Friday, I want to point out.

It was only one day earlier that the Minister of Labour himself was before that committee all day, along with his officials, when his members solidly—six to three—turned down the rights of those workers for additional hearings or to be heard. He was there; he helped to orchestrate it one day earlier. He did not have the decency to tell the workers that was what had happened and that their protest would be futile.

MEMBER'S COMMENTS

Mr. Runciman: In the last year we have watched Liberal cabinet ministers frantically reaching in every direction for someone to blame for their problems. The Minister of Skills Development (Mr. Curling) has blamed the federal government rather than addressing administrative problems in his ministry. The Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) has blamed doctors and hospitals for problems in her ministry. In areas of provincial jurisdiction, such as Lieutenant Governor's warrants, she has tried to blame the federal government. Yesterday, the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) blamed the federal government with respect to drug abuse problems

among young people in society. The Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek) blames the federal government for funding shortfalls when she lacks the competence to spend all of her own budget.

Now some Liberal backbenchers are emulating these irresponsible cabinet attitudes. This week, in the *Ottawa Citizen*, the member for Ottawa West (Mr. Chiarelli) blasted regional chairman Andy Haydon for letters in which Mr. Haydon merely attempted to ensure that his municipality obtained funding for road construction. The member for Ottawa West not only attempted to stifle a legitimate attempt by a municipal politician to communicate with a member of the Legislature, but continued the disturbing tendency of the government to blame everyone else for its problems.

If the citizens of eastern Ontario need support, they can look to their five Conservative MPPs rather than the Liberal MPPs, such as the member for Ottawa West, who have adopted the do-nothing, blame-it-on-everyone-else Liberal cabinet philosophy.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

Mr. Faubert: I rise to advise the members of this House of the findings of a study conducted by the heritage consulting firm of Mayer, Pihl Poulton and Associates Inc. regarding the archaeological resources of the northeast area of Scarborough.

This \$114,000 study, which is funded by the Ministry of Culture and Communications, took almost two years to complete. A previous study, sponsored by the Ministry of Government Services, and efforts by individuals like Scarborough planner Elaine Hitchman had pointed to the archaeological importance of the area. This province should be commended for once again adding its efforts and financial support to this project, which has helped to discover the history and cultural significance of the area.

In all, 40 new archaeological sites were discovered, bringing the total number of known sites in the Rouge area to 63. Indian villages and campsites were discovered, some of which may be as old as 8,000 BC. Some of these sites are considered to be of international significance, including a Seneca Indian village dated about 1650.

Indeed, archaeology provides us with the pieces which, when placed together, create the puzzle commonly referred to as history. These

findings reveal much valuable information regarding the cultural heritage and history of what we now call Ontario.

I applaud the efforts made to discover and preserve all archaeological sites deemed to be historically significant. For these reasons, every effort should be made to preserve the Rouge area as a national heritage park.

TEACHING ASSISTANTS' LABOUR DISPUTE

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I want to bring to the House's attention that the local of the Canadian Union of Educational Workers at the University of Toronto is on strike for the first time in 15 years. These are the teaching assistants at the university who have increasingly, with the problems of underfunding, been carrying a larger and larger role, underpaid and with no job security.

This is the first time this has occurred in the province. It is a crucial strike in terms of trying to get rights they are after. Members will perhaps be surprised to know that it is not money, although they are not well paid, that is the outstanding problem. They want the right to review hiring, the right to look at class size—because, as members will know, that is a huge burden on their time—the right to job security and the right to fair treatment.

The University of Toronto deans involved are saying they would like to give more but cannot, because there is not sufficient funding from this government, because of the lack of pass-through dollars over the last number of years. This strike should never have come about, but now that it is here, I would urge members to give these TAs all the support they can, so they can finally get the kind of support they deserve. It is quite parallel to what went on with the interns in the hospital system not too many years ago.

PREMIER'S TRIP

Mr. Harris: We all know the only reason this House is still sitting is because the Premier (Mr. Peterson) himself has insisted that we have important items of government business to complete before we adjourn. These legislative items are so important that the Premier has now decided to book a two-day trip to Hollywood next week while the House deals with them. Some may question the Premier's sincerity, but I have looked into the matter and I want all members to know that the Premier is indeed going to promote a number of film projects developed by his government.

They include: (1) a takeoff of *The Ten Commandments*, called *The Six Conditions*, about the Premier's epic fight against free trade; (2) a sequel to *Revenge of the Nerds*, the inside story on the Liberal government of Ontario; (3) a remake of *Lost in Space* which deals with the Liberal agenda at Queen's Park, and (4) the newest chapter of *Nightmare on University Avenue*, the film version of the Public Affairs Management consulting report on his government.

There is one rumour I have not been able to confirm, and it is that the Premier wants to quit politics to do what he does best, acting. If it is true, he may want to try out for a method role in either a mystery or a horror show, since what he has been doing since 1987 is a mystery to everyone and horrible to watch. In any case, we wish the Premier well in Tinseltown and, as they say in showbiz, "Break a leg."

BRYCE TAYLOR

Mr. Ballinger: I wish to express this government's sense of loss at the passing of Dr. Bryce Taylor on February 16, 1989, at the age of 55. Dr. Taylor was known and respected across Canada for his leadership in national sports organizations and for his important work with the provincial and federal governments.

As founder of the York University physical education department, Dr. Taylor designed an academic program which is clearly among the best in Canada. He wrote extensively on athletes, recreation and lifestyle. Writing alone or in collaboration with his peers, he produced 64 books, major reports, articles and research papers. His tireless effort on behalf of the Toronto Olympic Organizing Committee to bring the 1996 summer games to Toronto holds a promise for ever greater achievements for Canada's sports community.

However, Dr. Taylor left no greater legacy than his love for native Indian folklore and dances, a passion he shared with audiences around the world ranging from thousands of children across Canada to the Peking Opera.

I have been informed by the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr. O'Neil) that this government will officially recognize Dr. Taylor's tremendous contributions to the Ontario sport and recreation community on April 7 at the Ontario Sports Awards banquet. Dr. Taylor will be honoured posthumously with a provincial sports citation in the category of education for his impact on amateur sport development.

On behalf of the government of Ontario, I extend my sincere condolences to Dr. Taylor's wife, Cheryl, and his family.

1340

Mr. Speaker: The member for Cambridge, for 40 seconds.

Mr. Farnan: On behalf of the New Democratic Party, we would like to join in condolences to the Taylor family. Bryce Taylor is, first, a husband and a father, and I think it is the quality of his relationship with his family that he would probably prize most and treasure most, and which has probably left the greatest mark on society.

But all that the member said is true. His contributions to universities, his contributions to the sports life of Canada are very much appreciated, and we join in the honour that has been accorded to Dr. Taylor.

Mr. Harris: Before we proceed, I think there has been unanimous consent to allow all parties a few moments to comment on the statement that has just been referred to and, as well, on Estonian Independence Day, and I would ask that we be permitted to do that now.

Agreed to.

Mr. Cousens: I would like to join my colleagues from the government and from the New Democratic Party in commenting on the life of Dr. Bryce Malcolm Taylor. I appreciate the sentiments that have been expressed and indeed the support that has been shown by the Minister of Tourism and Recreation to make him the sports citation recipient for Ontario.

Dr. Taylor passed away last Thursday and was buried yesterday in Manotick. There will be memorial services in the Metropolitan Toronto area and also in Ottawa tomorrow.

He was professor in the department of physical education, recreation and athletics at York University, active in the Young Men's Christian Association across the country and became recognized nationally as one of those who had given leadership training by receiving the Howard Crocker Award of Excellence.

He obtained his doctorate in 1964 and then quickly became the director of the physical education and athletics program at the newly created York University. He was charged with the responsibility of planning the sports facilities for the main university campus and establishing the university athletic and recreation program.

He remained chairman and director from 1964 to 1976, and a member of executive committee of numerous organizations, including the YMCA;

the Canadian Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation; the Toronto District Physical Education Supervisors' Association; the board of directors of both the Integra Foundation and the Youth Clinical Services; the Coaching Association of Canada; the Canadian Olympic Association; the Ontario Council of Leisure, and the Canadian Gymnastics Federation.

In 1974, Dr. Taylor was named to the Hall of Fame of the Canadian Gymnastics Federation. He has received the prestigious R. Tait McKenzie Honour Award from the Canadian Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation.

As president of the Canadian Gymnastics Federation from 1974 to 1979, Dr. Taylor was honoured with the Air Canada Award as the amateur sport executive for the year 1976.

He has served his profession locally, nationally and internationally as president of the Coaching Association of Canada, president of the Commonwealth Gymnastic Federation, vice-president of the Canadian Olympic Association and chairman of Metric Commission Canada, health care sector.

He founded the sports administrative certificate program for the department of physical education and athletics at York University. He was secretary general of the Toronto Ontario Olympic Council, which is heading Toronto's bid for the Summer Olympics in 1996.

He has published numerous books and articles on sport; he has authored many other things that have been recognized worldwide, especially on the North American Indians, on which he has presented over 1,000 performances, lectures and master dance classes.

He was a friend of Ontario, a friend of sport, a man who was a leader and is indeed a loss to our province and our country; someone who has done a great deal for health and physical fitness.

ESTONIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. Cousens: There was unanimous consent on Estonian Independence Day and I have the privilege of making the presentation from our caucus. I know there are others who are anxious to participate.

Tomorrow, February 24, marks Estonian Independence Day. February 24 marks the 71st anniversary of the day that Estonia was proclaimed an independent nation.

Although Estonia became a functioning member of the League of Nations and enjoyed 22 prosperous years of independence, the country

was forcibly annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940 by means of a secret pact with Nazi Germany which divided up eastern Europe among themselves. As a result of this pact, Red Army tanks entered the port of Tallinn, thousands of Estonians were arrested and deported to Siberia, and it became a Soviet puppet government.

Ironically, the first nation to recognize Estonia's independence was the Soviet Union, which signed a peace treaty in 1920, promising to renounce, voluntarily and for ever, her sovereign rights over Estonia.

Despite the oppression of nearly 50 years of forced Soviet occupation, Estonia has recently emerged as the frontrunner among the Baltic states in courageously seeking self-determination under the leadership of Mikhail Gorbachev, who has recently admitted past errors and is attempting to bring about glasnost and a more open society.

To the nearly 15,000 Estonians in Ontario and their relatives at home and abroad, we in our party extend our support and hope that glasnost and perestroika will not merely be a good idea but a reality.

Mr. Ruprecht: Today I am delighted to extend our hand of friendship to the Estonian Central Council in Canada and, indeed, the whole community as they commemorate the 71st anniversary of Estonia Independence Day.

In the House today, we have a senior delegation of leaders of the Estonian Canadian community: Ilmar Heinsoo, who is the honorary consul general, and Avo Kittask, who is the vice-president of the Estonian Central Council in Canada.

When the scribes of history are going to record the history of that part of Europe, they will no doubt speak of a people who for hundreds of years had courageously fought for freedom and independence for Estonia. They will have to speak of a people who developed a special culture and language and who made tremendous strides in architecture and craftsmanship in the whole Baltic area that indeed are the envy of the neighbouring states.

In fact, when independence was declared in 1918, Estonians embarked upon such growth that it can only be termed and described as an economic miracle. When over 100,000 Estonians left their country before the Soviet invasion, 20,000 of them settled in this country called Canada and made their mark. They helped us develop this country. In fact, Estonians have done so well with the skills they brought with

them from Estonia that Statistics Canada yesterday listed Estonian women as the highest wage earners of any ethnic group in Canada. Their contribution is indeed exemplary.

As the events unfold this weekend in Estonia, the torch of freedom will be passed to a new generation of Estonians, who, I am sure, will not rest until once more the bells of freedom ring throughout that country.

Finally, Estonia may be a very small dot on the map of the world, yet its love of freedom is a giant example of great courage in the face of overwhelming odds. Therefore, on behalf of the government of Ontario and the Premier (Mr. Peterson), I am delighted today to declare Estonian Independence Day. We commend its observance to all the people of this province.

1350

Mr. R. F. Johnston: If I could add my own comments on behalf of the New Democratic Party on this, the remembrance day of independence being declared in 1918 in Estonia, this completes our recognition of the three Baltic states' period of independence, which they now are hoping to be able to recapture after many years of hardship under Soviet rule.

Estonia, probably more than the others, has suffered by another whole process that most people do not know about, which is the Russification of their country in a determined effort by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to limit the ethnic composition of that country and to try to take away its identity in that kind of fashion.

I am pleased to say that I have met the honorary consul now on a couple of occasions, once in Scarborough and once at a Lithuanian meeting the other night. I know that he and the people who have gone before him in that position in Canada and elsewhere in the world have carried an enormous burden in trying to get our attention to what looked like a hopeless situation, that they would never achieve the independence they sought.

The changes that are now taking place and the incredible courage that was shown in Estonia by taking leadership in the Baltic states just this last year in pushing for sovereignty has changed that feeling enormously. There is huge optimism, although it is guarded optimism, that the goals will be achieved in the foreseeable future. For that, we should all be very pleased and should, I hope, at this stage throw as much of our energies behind that taking place as we possibly can.

Welcome today.

COURT RULING

Mr. Speaker: Just before I call the next order of business, I would remind all members that on Thursday of last week, the honourable member for Burlington South (Mr. Jackson) raised a question of privilege which has given me a great deal of food for thought and I am now ready to rule on whether or not I can find a *prima facie* case of privilege relating to this matter.

As honourable members will remember, the honourable member for Burlington South brought to the attention of the House a matter in which he alleged that a judge, the Honourable Mr. Justice Walsh of the Supreme Court of Ontario, had issued a court order which would have prohibited one of the parties in this case from communicating with any party on matters relating to the action in question. The member alleged that, by extension, the court order would have to be interpreted to mean that parties in an action before a court of the province could not in fact, because of this order, communicate with a member of this House. In his presentation, the honourable member refers to this order and suggests that it had been issued on January 20 of this year. On obtaining a copy of the order, I was able to ascertain that this order had been issued on May 27, 1987. I believe the honourable member made an honest mistake here, based upon the information that he had obtained, and in no way do I consider this to be more than an honest mistake. However, I have noticed that a correction has been made to Hansard in this regard without the member having informed the House. In my opinion, this correction is one that should have been brought to the House's attention by the member.

I think it would be apropos at this point to quote the order in question:

"This court orders that the applicant and the respondent are hereby restrained from communicating by telephone or otherwise in such manner as may molest, annoy or harass the other and they are each hereby expressly prohibited from writing or contacting any third party in any way which touches upon the matters of this action."

This court order of general application as it stands is part of the decision of Mr. Justice Walsh on May 27, 1987. Subsequently, the same case came before Mr. Justice Osborne on January 17, 1989. During hearings before Mr. Justice Osborne, he gave permission to the respondent to communicate with others. Therefore, as of January 17 of this year, the court order in question has no further application and the

person in question has been able to communicate with whomever she wishes since that time.

I have given a lot of thought as to whether or not I should be tempted at this point to give a ruling in a hypothetical way upon the question raised last Thursday, and after reflection, I feel that I must be guided by the tradition that Speakers throughout history have resisted giving any ruling based on a hypothetical situation.

The question as raised and presented by the honourable member for Burlington South is a very compelling and interesting one, but as I have said, a Speaker is not able to rule on hypothetical situations. Therefore, at this time I can find no *prima facie* breach of privilege.

BIRTH OF MEMBER'S CHILD

Mr. B. Rae: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: Many members will have noted the absence of the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) in the last few days. He has been up north waiting for the arrival of a child. I am happy to announce that last night at six o'clock Anne Wildman, his wife, gave birth to a healthy baby girl weighing nine pounds and 14 ounces.

ORAL QUESTIONS

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Mr. B. Rae: I have a question for the Premier and I hope he will be able to answer it. I wonder if he can explain how it is that the Workers' Compensation Board communications department, when contacted by us about its activities in promoting Bill 162, stated that a senior bureaucrat, Henry McDonald of the Workers' Compensation Board, has already been reassigned to bring in the changes under the job title "executive director, implementation of Bill 162." Our party researchers were told by the Workers' Compensation Board that it would be very much involved in the promotion of this bill when the bill is passed in June. I wonder if the Premier can tell us why the Workers' Compensation Board would already be assuming that this bill in fact is law and then telling us it knows it is going to be passed in June.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I think the Minister of Labour can help out the honourable member.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I do not think anyone is making any predictions about when the bill will finally come before this House, have third reading and ultimately be passed and given royal assent. But I want to tell my friend the Leader of the Opposition that certainly the board is aware of the provisions of the bill. They are aware that they will—

Mr. B. Rae: They're promoting the provisions of the bill; they're putting your picture on the front page.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I wonder why, when the Leader of the Opposition asks a question, he continues to shout during the time in which a minister is trying to give an answer. That is something that has developed as a sort of tradition around here, I guess.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry. I cannot answer that question. Would you continue with the answer.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I was speaking rhetorically.

Let me try to get to the substance of the answer. Bill 162 does make major changes in about 10 per cent of the activities of the board. My understanding is that the board has put together a unit to examine how it will have to undertake its procedures differently when Bill 162 becomes law.

Mr. B. Rae: Yesterday and in previous discussions, I have put questions to the minister not only about the extent of Liberal Party propaganda which is now being paid for by taxpayers on Bill 162 but also about why the government would not be willing to establish a basic rule that, on a bill which affects injured workers so directly, the government would accept the commonsense view that everybody who wants to be heard and everybody affected by this bill who wants to make a presentation to the committee would be allowed to do so.

I wonder if the minister can answer this question. If it was good enough for the government, when we were bringing in an end to extra-billing, to say very clearly that if anybody wanted to appear he would be allowed to appear, and if it was good enough for the government to say, when we were discussing the major changes in education, that anybody who wanted to appear on Bill 30 would be allowed to appear—

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. B. Rae: —I wonder if the minister can tell us why the government has stated that there are people out there who have concerns and objections to Bill 162 who will not be heard, who will not be allowed to make presentations before the committee and whose voices will be squelched—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. B. Rae: —by the Liberal majority on the standing committee on resources development of this Legislature.

1400

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Let me try to put the Leader of the Opposition's question in some

perspective. In the preamble to his question, he suggested that Bill 162 affects all injured workers. Let me take this opportunity to remind the Leader of the Opposition and the other members of this House that the new rules covering permanent partial disability cover about eight per cent to 10 per cent of the people who register claims before the Workers' Compensation Board; that is, individuals who as a result of an accident or an injury have a permanent partial disability.

The other provisions in the bill dealing with rehabilitation and reinstatement, I believe are provisions that by and large everyone in this province supports; that is, enhancing rehabilitation and giving workers the right to have their job back once they have reached maximum medical recovery.

I just say this to my friend the Leader of the Opposition: It is my understanding that the standing committee on resources development of this Legislature met several weeks ago and determined that it would hold some six weeks of public hearings. It is my understanding that the Liberal members on that committee are taking the view that they ought to use every possible means during those six weeks, whether through expanded hours, sittings on Fridays or whatever, to hear as many people as possible, and that obviously, for those people who do not have an opportunity to come before the committee, written submissions will be considered with the same thoroughness that oral submissions would have been considered.

Mr. B. Rae: There are over 600 groups representing workers right across this province that have written and asked for a chance to appear. Many of those groups, indeed hundreds of those people, will not be able to appear because of the timetable which the minister has established. There was a demonstration out here because people were afraid he was not going to have hearings. There are going to be more demonstrations across this province if he is not prepared to recognize that everybody who wants to be heard ought to be heard. If that is what it takes to get heard, that is exactly what is going to happen.

I say to the minister, why does he not take the commonsense view and say categorically, as he said to the doctors, who have a vested interest, as he said to everybody affected by Bill 30; why does he not say the same? If it is good enough for doctors who are going to be affected by extra-billing changes, why is it not good enough for injured workers who are going to have their

pension rights affected by the changes which are coming in?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Let's make one thing perfectly clear at the outset. The bill that is before this parliament right now does not in any way affect the pensions of injured workers who are receiving pensions now, except to give them the availability of a supplement if, after the bill is passed, it is determined that their pensions are too low, based on what they were earning before. There are thousands of injured workers out there who are waiting for those provisions to be passed, so that they can come back to the board and apply for that supplement. That will mean some additional \$40 million in benefits annually going into the hands of injured workers who are out there right now.

Secondly, let's look at the schedule before the standing committee on resources development. Let's take a union like the United Steelworkers of America. They have an opportunity to make a global presentation, and if I remember the schedule correctly, they have the opportunity some 10 or 15 times, in various locals around the province, to make individual submissions. Similarly, with the Canadian Auto Workers, not only will the CAW make a comprehensive submission but locals of the CAW all over this province will make submissions. Similarly—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Order.

RENT REGULATION

Mr. B. Rae: My question is to the Minister of Housing. The minister may or may not be aware that the statistics released by her ministry show that by January 31, 1989, decisions had been made by rent review offices affecting 104,000 tenant families, and the average rental increase has been 11.3 per cent.

I wonder if the minister can explain why, when the figures released by her government show a guideline of 4.6 per cent, it would be that roughly 10 per cent of the tenants in Ontario who have been affected by her rent review bill would be receiving increases that are more than double the 4.6 per cent increase which is supposed to be the law of Ontario.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The member opposite knows there are more than three million tenants in this province and the vast majority of them are in fact paying rent increases at or near that guideline of 4.6 per cent. There are some tenants who are living in buildings in which their landlords have applied for a rent increase based on a variety of causes, and if those rents are

justified according to the legislation, then they will indeed face a rent increase.

Let me remind the member opposite that there have also been rebates given to tenants; the average rebate to tenants in this province has been 14.3 per cent.

Mr. B. Rae: Let me bring the minister down to earth for a minute, if I may. A decision was handed down in late November for the tenants living at 757 Victoria Park Avenue in Scarborough. According to the board, they are going to have their rent increased in five years, from 1985 to 1990, by some 86 per cent.

I wonder if the minister can tell us why it is that this government has accepted financial and economic loss provisions in its rent review law which allow landlords—in this case, a landlord who goes by the personal name of 521160 Ontario Ltd.; I am sure the minister is acquainted with 521160 Ontario Ltd.—to drive a truck through rent review, and why she is putting in an increase which practically doubles the rent for tenants who were there in 1985. Can she explain why that would be happening?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The member opposite knows that the rent review legislation, as it was designed, is meant to balance the requirement by the tenants of a justifiable system and of the buildings to be appropriately maintained and managed; there is a balance in the legislation.

The important thing to remember is that the system was meant to make sure that the rents are fair and are justified according to a systematic way of dealing with them. That is how they have been dealt with and that is how the system has been working.

Mr. B. Rae: I want to make it clear that this is a building which has a lot of middle-income tenants. They are tenants who could quite easily be described as people who are now too poor to buy in Toronto's market but are not poor enough to qualify for any kind of assisted housing. This is the group—the band of tenants, the middle-income group of tenants—that is literally stuck in its buildings. They cannot afford to buy their way out and get into the housing market on their own, because the minister has priced them out of the market and has sat back and watched speculation take over. They cannot even get on the 30,000-people waiting list for assisted housing in the province.

What does the minister say to Donna Halliday, a tenant who in April 1985 was paying \$900 per month for an apartment and is being told that by April 1990 she will be paying \$1,800? She is moving out. Where does she go? She cannot

afford to buy and she is not going to qualify for assisted housing. What is supposed to happen to her?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The rent review legislation of this province was never meant to solve all the housing problems that people face, and members all know that; it is very clear. That is the reason we have been working to increase the opportunities for housing for people of low and moderate incomes through building more nonprofit housing, through using government land, through building a major project like the one at St. Lawrence Square and through our land use policy, which is meant to make sure that housing at various income levels is built across the province.

For the individual people involved in a situation like this one, I know this is very difficult and I have great concern for them; but this policy was never meant to carry all by itself the burden of dealing with the housing problems that we face in this province.

1410

FUNDING FOR WOMEN'S PROGRAMS

Mr. Jackson: My question is to the Treasurer. He will recall that on February 14, Sandra Kerr, the president of the Ontario Advisory Council on Women's Issues, wrote him a letter suggesting several options, including one: a special tax that could be levied against pornographic magazines, videos and movies.

Today we read in the newspaper that the Premier (Mr. Peterson) has dismissed this idea out of hand and specifically has said that by taxing pornography, the government would in fact be condoning it.

My question to the Treasurer is, given that he places special high taxes on tobacco, alcohol and leaded gasoline, does he agree that taxing a product means that he is condoning the use of it?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: To put the question in a different light and perhaps answer in a more appropriate way, I can say that I agree with the Premier.

Mr. Jackson: We are going to miss the honourable member in the House.

What is significant in the letter that the Treasurer received from Ms. Kerr, who was writing on behalf of a coalition of many women in this province and their concerns, is that she was not writing to the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney), who is responsible for funding women's shelters. She was not writing to the Solicitor General (Mrs. Smith), who is responsible for funding rape crisis

centres, nor to the minister responsible for women's issues (Mr. Sorbara), whom she was supposed to advise. She wrote to the Treasurer. Quite clearly, she has legitimate concerns about the fact that he controls the purse-strings of this province, and therefore he is deciding the women's agenda, the agenda of funding adequately.

Mr. Speaker: The question?

Mr. Jackson: Will the Treasurer accept the offer of assistance contained in that letter to him, advising him on how to finance the government's commitment to women and children who are the victims of violence in Ontario?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: When the honourable member indicated that the Premier dismissed the idea out of hand, I think he should have said at the same time that the Premier expressed the view that I know is held by all members of this House and the community about the problems that pornography presents in the community at large, but I do think it was reasonable for him to say that he did not feel that such a method of taxation was practicable.

I look forward to the opportunity of meeting with the representation of the group that sent the letter in my office or any convenient place so that we can have a reasonable discussion on the matter, which is important and sensible.

Mr. Jackson: With regard to the Treasurer's clarification, there were several flippant statements, including references to swimsuit editions of Sports Illustrated and a minister responsible for women's issues who makes reference to the fact that there is no connection between violence and pornography.

The point is that if the minister will consider several of these known options to help him finance his commitment—because clearly he is not living up to the commitment based on the need to attack the issue of violence against women. He will be aware that the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board in this province awards \$4 million annually and receives only 1.5 per cent of its revenues from actual offenders. That means that 98.5 per cent of the revenue has to come from taxes and general revenue.

Will the minister consider the following two additional suggestions? First, using his right of subrogation, would he recover a greater share of Criminal Injuries Compensation Board awards from the actual offenders? Second, will he consider adopting a system employed in southern Australia and other jurisdictions which imposes a conviction tax on criminals who have been found

guilty of crimes of violence against women? Will the minister consider those as well?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I want to object to the comment made by the honourable member that the Premier's response was flippant. I do not believe that it was. His comments simply were intended to indicate the difficulty in determining what is pornographic and what is not.

The honourable member knows that in his community and my own or any other place, a citizen can lay a complaint or the police, on investigation, can lay a charge. But if one looks at the magazines that are available for sale on a regular basis, whether or not they are pornographic is a judgement, in my view, that is very personal. To establish a taxation system on that is questionable indeed.

If the honourable member is suggesting that taxes be applied to things that are clearly obscene and should not be sold under any circumstances in any community, otherwise they would lead to charges by the police, then I do not think that is reasonable or sensitive.

OUTBREAK OF MENINGITIS

Mr. Eves: I have a question of the Minister of Health. Two weeks ago, I raised the issue of the spread of meningitis in the Peterborough area with her House leader while she and the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) were at a health conference in New Brunswick. At that time, he said that everything was being handled appropriately and that there was no need for the Ministry of Health to taken any action. Yesterday, her ministry finally started an inoculation program for children in Victoria county to stop the spread of the disease.

Many family doctors and parents have been critical of the length of time it has taken for the minister's officials to react to this serious situation. Could the minister tell the House why public health officials have not reacted to this serious situation sooner?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: If I could take the opportunity and thank our House leader for providing such accurate information to the House when I was at the meeting, I can tell the member opposite that I have, in fact, spoken to the chief medical officer of health. As members know, my primary concern is always public safety. Our chief medical officer assures me that the action that has been taken by the public health officials is appropriate and that the decision on vaccination was taken after consultation with experts on disease control.

Mr. Eves: There have been 55 cases and six deaths with respect to meningitis reported across the province this year to date. It is important, I think, that the public be kept informed about the possible spread of the disease. We have received phone calls today from concerned parents in the Port Hope area who tell us that calling local public health units is an exercise in futility, in their opinion.

Parents are concerned that public health officials have been unable to provide them with any clear information about the spread of the disease and any precautions that they should consider taking. Is it acceptable to the minister that public health officials are not keeping the public informed about the spread of the disease not only in Victoria county but also in neighbouring counties?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: First, let me say that I have great confidence in the actions taken by public health officials under the direction and after consultation with the chief medical officer of the province. He has assured me that the action taken by public health officials is appropriate and that community physicians, hospitals and health care workers in the province have been notified of the higher than normal occurrence in a certain area of the province and that they received instructions about what to watch for.

I would encourage people who have questions to contact their local public health unit, which can provide them with information. I think it is very important that information be given that is accurate and based on the expertise of the public health officials who are extremely aware of the importance of disease control and the interests of public health and public safety. I believe that the opportunity to discuss that in this House today is an important one, but I would encourage the member opposite to encourage anyone who calls his office to get the facts from the public health experts.

Mr. Eves: I agree with the minister that the outbreak of meningitis this year is rather uncommon and unusual and I agree that public health officials should be providing that information. But the reports that we are getting from parents are that they are not satisfied with the responses they are getting from public health officials. We think the government should be taking a leading role in this respect.

I have a suggestion to make to the minister in the Legislature this afternoon. Would she commit, on behalf of her government, to starting an immediate public information campaign, includ-

ing a hotline number for concerned parents in Ontario?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I am always happy to have the advice of the critic for the third party. I would suggest to him that the best source of information for the people of this province, if they want the facts and if they have concerns, is to contact their local public health unit. They are the experts on disease control.

I can tell the member that the decisions that are taken on distribution of antibiotics or on vaccination are taken after consultation with experts. I know his concern is public safety, and it is always a priority of mine. I would encourage him to tell people who call his office that they can have confidence that the public health experts in Ontario are acting appropriately.

FUNDING OF SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES

Mr. Allen: I have a question for the Treasurer. Members of our party for some time have been raising questions about the problem of funding agencies that receive transfer payments from his government. Two nights ago, the cork blew in North Bay, where the 55 workers at the North Bay and District Association for the Mentally Retarded community-based program occupied the regional office of the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

1420

Two days have elapsed. There has been no statement in respect to that in this House. Those workers looked after 96 clients. They take care of their direct care, they give them life skills training, they do substantial nursing, yet they earn an average of only \$17,500 per year.

The Treasurer must realize that he is the phantom at the bargaining table. Why is he driving the staff of these agencies to desperate actions like this by transferring grant levels which maintain such scandalously low salary levels for the workers concerned?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I certainly do not like to be held up as some sort of villain in a matter of such importance as the honourable member describes. The Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) has brought to the attention of his colleagues in cabinet something we all know, that the pay levels for many people working for his ministry and the agencies that report through his ministry are lower than they should be.

From my point of view, the budget for the ministry was increased last year—I am just checking my notes here—about \$600 million. It grew by about 14 per cent.

Mr. Pouliot: What's that got to do with it?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I am sure that does not mean anything to the honourable member on the front bench of the New Democratic Party who says, "What's that got to do with it?" What it has to do with it is that very large additional sums are allocated from the consolidated revenue fund to the ministry that is so well administered by my good friend the Minister of Community and Social Services. The difficulties that he has to put up with, even with these huge additional infusions of money, are very great.

All I can say is that we are doing the best we can. The member would agree with me that it could not be better administered than by the honourable minister and his staff.

Mr. Allen: I do not want to be diverted into the latter part of the answer, but the Treasurer does know that his government has a policy of deinstitutionalization with respect to the persons concerned into community-based facilities.

The point I would make is that across the whole system—for example, in Dundas county, a Canadian Union of Public Employees group is on strike and has been on strike since February 1. After considering their experience in working with the people they work with, they tell me that they are coming to the conclusion that the policy of deinstitutionalization, which they support, is in fact now being undermined by the Treasurer's very funding levels. They regret that, but that is the conclusion they are driven to, that in point of fact, their clients are better served in institutions at this time.

Does the Treasurer not realize that it is not a case of driving workers into desperate situations and their taking some rash act on their own behalf, but a case of his own public policy? What is he going to do to rescue his own public policy with respect to deinstitutionalization and community-based care?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: All I can say to the honourable member is that he makes a point that can be made very effectively on behalf of most child care workers and certainly many people associated with home care under the auspices of both Community and Social Services administration and the Ministry of Health. We are well aware of this very serious difficulty. Many of the pay levels are at \$15,000 a year, and even lower than that.

We are looking at what the implications would be, and they are very large indeed. I simply reiterate to the honourable member that the Ministry of Community and Social Services budget, which is a substantial budget, as he

knows, is not the fastest-growing budget in the government, but at just under 15 per cent, it is surpassed by very few.

I believe that it is well worth while that the honourable member would naturally do his duty and bring this to our attention. I can say to him in response that we want to respond as effectively as we can, budget by budget. Last year, it was an increase of 14.8 per cent. We will do the best we can this coming year.

ALCOHOL AND DRUG ADDICTION

Mrs. Marland: My question is for the Minister of Health. After a great deal of fanfare, the Black report was released with promises by the Liberal government that drug addiction programs at the community level would be upgraded and enhanced to better serve those faced with drug-related problems.

A Mississauga-based group called Managing Addiction Programs for Peel, comprised of two paid staff, a volunteer president and a volunteer board of directors, has been providing a service that identifies gaps in service and then develops and manages programs to address the needs of drug-addicted persons. MAPP has been serving the community for about three years with financial assistance from the United Way. This group has a proven track record and, in fact, was recommended by the Peel District Health Council for funding by the Ministry of Health.

Can the minister tell this House why she has refused funding for this effective group?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The ministry is currently spending approximately \$39 million on 151 community-based programs which include detoxification centres, rehabilitation services, evaluation and counselling programs and direct services to assist those.

As the member would know, the Premier (Mr. Peterson), on behalf of the government, committed to double the funding available for programs. The emphasis of the Black report and the ministry is to place the priority for funding on the provision of direct addiction treatment services.

Mrs. Marland: The people in the region of Peel are going to be very disappointed that the Minister of Health has not answered this very serious question. I wish, with respect, that the minister had listened.

The Peel District Health Council has indicated that it fully supports the goals of MAPP and recommends funding for this needed service. However, in a letter to MAPP the minister used the excuse that she could not grant funding because the Peel District Health Council did not

list it as its priority for funding. In fact, it was the health council's second funding request in priority.

My second question is: Since in the minister's letter she has refused to fund the MAPP project, does this mean that the money to fund the Peel District Health Council's priority detoxification centre at Peel Memorial Hospital will be granted immediately?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The member opposite has acknowledged the important role that the district health councils play in the planning process. They are involved right now in responding to recommendations and planning for the future.

In fact, the number one priority for the Peel District Health Council was for a program for direct program delivery. That is being considered and is under review at the present time as part of our expansion of treatment and community-based service programming for addictions in this province.

ASSISTANCE TO GRAPE GROWERS

Mr. Dietsch: My question is for the Minister of Agriculture and Food. There is a great deal of concern in the Niagara Peninsula on the part of grape growers over the adjustment program. Every day farmers call to express their concerns. I would like to ask the minister for an update on the status of the \$100-million federal-provincial adjustment for Ontario grape growers.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: I am pleased to indicate to the honourable member that after lengthy and detailed consultations between the two levels of government and representatives of the Ontario Grape Growers' Marketing Board, a final assistance package is ready to go. The province is certainly ready to proceed to assist Ontario grape growers with our share. We are awaiting final approval of the federal government for its money to flow.

I spoke last night to the federal minister, the Honourable Don Mazankowski and I received assurances from Mr. Mazankowski that the federal government will be receiving approval within the next two days.

Mr. Dietsch: Given the ongoing delays in finalizing this package and the financial needs and concerns of the growers, can the minister indicate what steps have been taken to ensure some stability for these producers until this adjustment package is finally completed, which I hope is very soon?

1430

Hon. Mr. Riddell: Staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food have undertaken full

consultations with the grape board to ensure it is fully informed on all the administrative details of the adjustment program and its status. Indeed, it is my understanding that the Ontario grape board is ready to handle the administration of this program as soon as the federal government approves its share of the program. Moreover, ministry staff have been in consultation with other groups affected by the adjustments of the grape industry, particularly creditors and wineries.

I will say that all efforts have been made to keep all parties fully informed and to avoid any abrupt actions that would adversely affect the producers. I am assured by staff and representatives of the grape board that all components of the \$100-million adjustment program are ready.

TEACHERS

Mr. R. F. Johnston: My question is for the Minister of Colleges and Universities and it regards the teacher shortage that we have this year and that it looks like we will have again next year. I can empathize with the minister in trying to plan the number of students who should enter the faculties of education when she has a Minister of Education (Mr. Ward) who will tell you that there is no problem this year and that he only needs 3,000 new teachers, although we found more than that were required in just 20 boards around the Metropolitan Toronto area. That must have been the reason why the minister only approved 440 new spaces at the faculties of education for this last year.

Can the minister tell us how many new spaces she is planning in the faculties of education for this fall?

Hon. Mrs. McLeod: I think the Minister of Education has indicated in past statements that we believe we can take steps that will respond to a concern about future teacher shortages. The minister has indicated, of course, that our joint ministries have undertaken a study of teacher demand and supply in the future. That study is to be released shortly, but I think it is also quite clear we did not wait for the results of the study to take some steps to address the shortage.

The member is quite right that there was an increase in teacher spaces and in the number of people admitted to teacher training at faculties of education last year. It was a 13 per cent increase last year. That is a significant increase in spaces. There will also be a further increase next year.

I think the member is aware we have a program adjustment fund to encourage expansion of programs in areas the government sees as areas of

critical need. Teacher education is one of those areas. It was responsible for the increase in teacher spaces last year and it will be responsible for an increase in applications and registrations in faculties of education next year as well.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The 13 per cent increase bore no relationship to the reality of the depth of the shortage we have. We are going to be well over 1,000 teachers short this year alone.

Will the minister confirm the fact that even if she expands as much as the universities have told her they can expand this year, she will not get more than another 680 new spaces this year? It is only six months now until September and faculties need a good 10 months to a year to do the planning for that kind of expansion. Can the minister tell us why she has not told York University or the University of Toronto, the ones that are saying they can have major expansions, that she is even going to fund them at all this fall for new spaces?

Hon. Mrs. McLeod: I would prefer to leave some discussion about the number of teachers that are anticipated as being needed over the next few years until the release of the teacher demand and supply study.

We will be announcing the program adjustment fund allocation to the universities for next September very shortly. We have received the advice of the Ontario Council on University Affairs on the allocation of those program adjustment funds, so that information will go out. The program adjustment fund has already been operative in the past year. The universities have responded with increases in the faculties of education and I know they will continue to do so in September. The specific figures will become available.

TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. Cousens: I have a question for the Minister of Transportation, and I have sent a copy of the question over to the minister. The Minister of Transportation recently addressed the annual conference of the Ontario Good Roads Association. He has done so every year since 1986. It is not too much of a challenge for him, because he says the same thing each and every year.

For example, in 1987, the minister stated, "The urgent need for transportation funding, both within the provincial and municipal networks, is well recognized by every member of the Liberal government." In 1988 he stated, "The pressures that confronted us in 1986 still challenge us today: increased public demand for

transportation services." Just last week the minister dusted off the same old rhetoric when he said: "Whether it is in the north, the east or anywhere in Ontario, the problem is the same. These and other more local roads projects are not being committed to or completed fast enough."

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. Cousens: I would like to ask the minister a simple question. Given that he recognizes Ontario's infrastructure is not keeping pace with development, when does he plan to take action?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I thank the member for sending over a copy of his researcher's question. I appreciate the member's apparent and new interest in transportation issues.

I am sure he will be well aware of the enormous demands we inherited from one end of this province to the other. He will be aware that in its last budget, the then Ministry of Transportation and Communications received the smallest percentage of the provincial budget in our history. However, he will also be aware that in the past three and a half years the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) and the government of Ontario have recognized the enormous backlog we inherited, in the projects we have started and in many cases completed from one end of this province to the other.

Mr. Cousens: In the same speech last week, the minister stated: "Transportation is essential to ensuring that this growth is more equally shared throughout the entire province, and that has been a consistent personal theme for me. While improving public transit, we are planning even more expansion."

I think the only expansion planned is in the minister's own office. That is his constant personal theme. Estimated expenditures for his office will rise in the fiscal year 1988-89 by 8.1 per cent. Compare that to the 2.2 per cent increase the minister has so graciously authorized for municipal transit in the province in the same year.

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. Cousens: The Ontario Good Roads Association is tired of listening to the same old broken record, the same broken answers. The minister knows there are a number of transportation initiatives he could be undertaking, such as the Sheppard subway line. When will he take action and thereby have a new message for the good roads association at its dinner next year?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: As is often the case with my friend the member for Markham, his figures are once again incorrect. If he could distinguish

between transit and roads, he would be aware that we have better than an 11 per cent increase this year in our transit budget and that our municipal roads budget has increased in excess of 36 per cent over the past three years. I invite the member to join me on my next and subsequent trips across this province from one end to the other, to listen to and see the results of the work of this government in the past three and a half years.

Mr. Cousens: I accept. I'll be glad to go with him. I'm coming, Ed.

Mr. Speaker: Is the member for Markham finished?

Mr. Cousens: You call me; I'm coming, brother.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

CHLOROFLUOROCARBONS

Mr. Matrundola: My question is to the Minister of the Environment. Last week, I noted with pride that this government, and specifically his ministry, took a significant step towards tackling the serious problems we face in terms of preserving our natural environment when the minister announced that Ontario had become the first province in Canada to act to protect the ozone layer by phasing out the use of chloro-fluorocarbons.

Although we in Ontario are acting to establish a strategy to protect our vital ozone shield, the problem of ozone depletion is one that is global in scope. What can we do to encourage other jurisdictions in Canada, and in fact the world, to implement similar programs to eliminate any further use of CFCs?

1440

Hon. Mr. Bradley: That is a good question. The member probably recognizes, as most people do, that ultraviolet radiation, which will be a result of the thinning of the ozone layer—we have noted this particularly over the Antarctic and the Arctic—will in fact increase the number of occasions of skin cancer, will reduce crop yields—I know the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) has been interested in that for some time—and can cause damage to aquatic life as well as cause cataract problems. I saw an estimate that about a three per cent depletion in that ozone layer, for instance, could cause 2,000 additional and unnecessary skin cancers.

Indeed, we are happy to take this first step. I am pleased to work with other jurisdictions in Canada that are in that process at present. I see British Columbia has joined the effort. Our

federal government has made an announcement. I am pleased to work with those people and to work with others in the world.

There have been some international conferences where commitments have been made by a number of countries in the world to effect the same kinds of reductions and to make the same kinds of changes. We recognize that while Ontario consumes about one and a quarter per cent of the CFCs that are produced, in fact it would be useful to interest other jurisdictions. I am pleased to say there are some in the United States that are in the process of addressing this problem at the same time. We see it as a joint effort worldwide.

Mr. Matrundola: Since the minister's announcement on February 16, I have received inquiries pertaining to specific products subject to the legislation. Specifically, I would like to ask if all styrofoam cups and all aerosols are made with CFCs? Therefore, are all such products going to be affected by this phase-out?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: As I indicated at the time of the announcement, the good news was that many of these aerosol sprays that used CFCs have already had them replaced with other propellants. Of course, that is what we think is very important.

Mr. Jackson: Speaking of repellents.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Propellants.

We know that not all styrofoam cups or styrofoam products in this world are made with CFCs. Many have already gone through the conversion process. They have taken that initiative in anticipation of government regulatory activity.

There has been a good voluntary effort on the part of some members of industry to estimate the use of their CFCs and to lower the use of their CFCs in the manufacturing process. The legislation and the ultimate regulations, therefore, are designed to weed out these products, which are at present made with CFCs, and to ensure that no further product development can consider their utilization in the manufacturing process. In essence, we are ensuring the preservation of a—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

AIR QUALITY

Mr. Mackenzie: I have a question to the Minister of the Environment, and I think he can be short with it.

Is the minister aware of the concerns of the workers at Stelco's bar processing mill in my

riding, who seem to be having real problems getting inspectors to resolve an obvious problem over emissions from the old Columbian Chemicals carbon plant on Parkdale? Why do the workers have to become ill, and even closures of the mill take place, while inspectors say things like, "We are waiting for the results of the latest tester we put up some six months ago."

Hon. Mr. Bradley: We work very often with representatives in the labour union movement to try to resolve problems. Ordinarily they are dealing with the Ministry of Labour, as the member would know. In some cases, they are dealing with the Ministry of the Environment. I welcome the question from the member and will be pleased to investigate further to see if that can be speeded up.

That there are a number of endeavours going on in the province now. We are doing virtually the largest amount of testing one could ever find in a variety of fields, but I am concerned when I hear what the member has to say and would like to act upon it expeditiously.

Mr. Mackenzie: I have a petition for the minister. It will give him some additional information on the concerns of the workers that I have raised, as far back as 1982 on this particular plant, in letters to ministers of the government.

The company has a standing agreement with the employees to wash their cars because of the dust and oil-based dust they get covered with, which even gets inside the cars. Obviously, the company knows it has a problem in this particular case. When are we going to say to them, rather than the long time we have been working on this issue, that it is time they took a look at the workers' lungs, not just at their cars in terms of any action?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Again, I look at the dual jurisdiction there might be here between the inside operation, the actual operation of the plant as it relates to the Ministry of Labour, and that which relates to the Ministry of the Environment. The member may know there are occasions when the actions contemplated and mandated by the Ministry of the Environment, while they may be good for the outside environment, may have adverse impacts within a plant, and that is always of concern when we are attempting to develop a control order.

Second, I will be pleased to have the support of the people who work in the plant when I come down with a very strong control order, when the clean air program comes in and when I hear reports from companies that they will be unable to implement these because of costs or technical

reasons. I will be mighty pleased, because I know I will have the strong support of the workers in those plants, as I always do across Ontario, when I want to bring in strong environmental legislation that the owners of the plants may say would cause a closedown, or a closing of a specific operation. I am very pleased to have that support from the labour union.

ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS

Mr. Villeneuve: To the Minister of Agriculture and Food: The minister may have recently read in Farm and Country about a University of Guelph survey conducted in Kent and Oxford counties last summer. The survey revealed that the top priority for most farmers is still very much financial survival, which is rated much more important than many other agricultural problem. This is over and above the crisis in the grape-growing industry brought about by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade decision. What financial farm-support programs for Ontario farmers does the minister have for the immediate future?

Mr. Speaker: I recognize the minister. There are a great many private conversations going on that make it very difficult to hear.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Now I am hearing noises from all sides. Minister.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: I more or less anticipated a question from the honourable member; it was interesting to see the rather scant membership of the Tory party gather around him—so they could focus in on the cameras, I guess.

We have all kinds of programs that assist the producers of this province. The Ontario family farm interest rate reduction program is still in place and cheques are still flowing. We have a tripartite stabilization program that is now signed by all provinces, with the exception of Newfoundland, that gives the farmers long-term stability. We have the crop insurance program that gives the farmers long-term stability and we are working to improve that program. We are waiting for the federal minister to introduce amendments to the act in the House. We have numerous programs. We have Food Systems 2002—

Mr. Speaker: We do have a mail service, too. Supplementary.

Mr. Villeneuve: I think the Minister of Agriculture and Food has been watching too much of the Wide World of Wrestling, and Jake the Snake may be part of what he follows.

According to the third-quarter financial update just released by the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon), the Ministry of Agriculture and Food has cut its budget by the largest amount of any line ministry, \$37 million, dollars that were scheduled for agriculture that will not be spent on agriculture. Given that many financial sectors of agriculture are still in crisis situations, why will the minister not put these savings back into agriculture, which they were originally scheduled for? Is that not his job?

1450

Hon. Mr. Riddell: I do not know where the honourable member gets his information, because to this point in time the various ministries' budgets have not been struck. I do not know to this point in time what my final budget is going to be. I do not know where he gets all his information.

Mr. Villeneuve: From the Treasurer.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: Then the member has an inside track with him that I must not have. I am going to tell the member that wherever our budget ends up, the farmers can be assured that we will continue to give them the assistance we have given them ever since we formed the government four years ago.

CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Mr. Velshi: My question is to the Minister of Correctional Services. Recent incidents in Metropolitan Toronto have provoked serious questions about the treatment of visible minorities by our criminal justice system. Can the minister outline what steps his ministry has taken to ensure that Correctional Services is responding to the special circumstances of its minority clients?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: The Ministry of Correctional Services has long recognized the need to respond in a manner that I think is both sensitive and appropriate to the special circumstances presented by the cultural diversity of our client population.

The ministry has responded to both these needs through a multicultural strategy founded on three initiatives: staff awareness and training, community liaison and cultural services. Since 1983, we have been delivering programs that I think address those issues. I think the development and implementation of this strategy is very consistent with and supportive of the government direction in this area.

Mr. Velshi: Can the minister tell the House what additional steps he is taking to address the

needs of Ontario's diverse multicultural groups, especially in the Metropolitan Toronto region?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: We have taken several steps in that regard. One, we have translated a series of pamphlets about corrections into Chinese, Spanish, Vietnamese, Polish, Portuguese, Hindi, Italian and Greek. These pamphlets have been distributed to a wide range of community groups and organizations.

A number of contracts have also been negotiated with the ethno-specific agencies to provide counselling and interpretation services to incarcerated clients as well as individuals under community supervision.

We have also translated the inmate handbook into eight languages, which I think serves our client population very well.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

Miss Martel: I have a question for the Minister of Labour concerning rehabilitation services at the Workers' Compensation Board.

On January 1, 1989, several policy changes regarding rehabilitation became effective. One particular change means that injured workers now have the length of time they receive rehabilitation services tied directly to the length of time they will be on compensation benefits. Under section 45 of the act, a worker can receive benefits for up to a maximum of 18 months only. Therefore, any worker who requires rehabilitation or retraining will now receive a maximum rehabilitation of 18 months.

Can the minister explain if he accepts this change which limits rehab, retraining and schooling for injured workers to 18 months?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The member for Sudbury East raises a question that a number of representatives from the United Steelworkers of America raised with me in my office just a few days ago when they were there to speak to me about Bill 162, even though the public hearings on the bill had already begun. I asked them for more details on it.

I want to point out to my friend from Sudbury East that under the current structure of the act, a policy such as the one she describes—not that I am saying that is the board's policy; I am making inquiries—the board has the discretion to make those sorts of determinations about which section rehabilitation will be provided under. It is within the discretion of the board.

I just point out to the member that under Bill 162 there are much stricter provisions and, interestingly and appropriately, the right to vocational rehabilitation and the services that

will be provided is subject to appeal right throughout the system, including an appeal to the Workers' Compensation Appeals Tribunal. That is one of the great merits of the vocational rehabilitation provisions in the bill.

Miss Martel: One of the great merits of the rehabilitation section of the bill would have been for the minister to say rehabilitation would be an obligation on the board to provide. He has refused to do that, in spite of the fact that the study by Majesky-Minna said rehabilitation services at the board were absolutely atrocious now. This government refused to take the prime recommendation by that committee, which was that rehabilitation had to be a statutory right.

Given that the commitment by the board at this point is only 18 months to rehabilitation, and given that his bill does not even oblige the Workers' Compensation Board to provide rehabilitation, how can he stand here and say the workers are going to be provided for at all when they are not now and they certainly will not be under his bill?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I think it is absolutely scandalous that the member from Sudbury East so distorts the provisions in the bill. The bill does not—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Mr. Speaker, I withdraw. Even before you rise, I withdraw that comment.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The minister has withdrawn. Thank you.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I just withdrew it, I say to my friend from Lake Nipigon (Mr. Pouliot).

I want to point out, though, that under Bill 162 the statutory obligation of the board is to provide an assessment. Where the assessment indicates—

Miss Martel: Whoopee. It doesn't mean service.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: She shouts, but I want to tell her something before the end of this question period. Where the assessment indicates that vocational rehabilitation will be of benefit, the board is obliged to provide those services, and if the board—

Miss Martel: That's not true.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: She is denying that.

If the board does not provide those services, the worker has a right to take his or her case to the tribunal to say, "Assessment services were the order of the day and the board has not provided." Under the jurisdiction of the appeals tribunal, the appeals tribunal, under the statute—because it is

in the statute—will have the capacity to order the board to provide those services.

Miss Martel: It's not in the bill.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Read the bill; you will see that it is right there.

PETITIONS

RAPE CRISIS CENTRES

Mr. Jackson: I would like to take this opportunity to present 20,000 cards that contain the signatures of citizens right across this province. It has also been sponsored by the Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres. This card has been put together only in the last week and it is addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Sexual assault is a major problem in our society. One in four females and one in eight males will be sexually assaulted in their lifetimes. Reports to sexual assault crisis centres are doubling annually in Ontario.

"We therefore demand immediate and appropriate funding for sexual assault centres in Ontario."

One of the cards has my signature in support and I would ask that the Clerk ensure that the Premier (Mr. Peterson) also has access to these.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Mr. Mackenzie: I have here a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas the Liberal members of the standing committee on resources development have voted to oppose an opposition motion to hear all deputations who want to appear before the committee on Bill 162;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly to instruct the standing committee on resources development to reschedule its public hearings on Bill 162 in order to give all deputations who wish to make presentations about the proposed changes to the workers' compensation system an opportunity to appear before the committee and express their views."

This petition, the first of several, is signed by 105 workers, largely Italian at this point in time, and I will turn it over to the House.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Miss Nicholas: I have a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It says:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament as follows:

"We, the undersigned, feel that the penal system regarding the criminally insane is not strict enough, letting these people enter our communities and therefore putting our children's lives at stake.

"This petition is part of a public outcry for help to save our children from John Finlayson and others like him who we hear will get another chance to murder again."

This is signed by 142 people and I have attached my name as well.

1500

ICE FISHING

Mr. Harris: I have a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas Trout Lake is the source of drinking water for the city of North Bay and is a valuable recreational resource for the area, and

"Whereas ice fishing huts are an important source of refuse and litter in the lake and are also potentially the source of faecal coliform in the lake, and

"Whereas winter fishing pressure on Trout Lake has doubled since 1980 and catch per angling hour is decreasing, and

"Whereas the majority of lake trout caught are below spawning age, and

"Whereas the natural reproduction of lake trout is substantially below the potential for Trout Lake,

"Therefore be it resolved that: the Trout Lake Conservation Association requests changes to the appropriate regulations in order to exclude the use of ice fishing huts on Trout Lake."

This was a resolution that was adopted at the meeting of the board of directors of the Trout Lake Conservation Association on November 22, 1988. A subsequent petition to that effect has been signed by some 200 people living in, around, near or having concerns for, Trout Lake, and I have affixed my signature thereto.

REPORT BY COMMITTEE

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Laughren from the standing committee on resources development reports the following resolution:

That supply in the following amounts and to defray the expenses of the Ministry of Transport

tation be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1989:

Ministry administration program, \$51,433,977; policy planning and research program, \$13,983,500; safety and regulation program, \$95,637,400; provincial highways program, \$641,827,800; provincial transit program, \$195,190,000; provincial transportation program, \$12,701,000; municipal roads program, \$695,028,700; and municipal transit program, \$353,397,700; and

That supply in the following supplementary amount and to defray the expenses of the Ministry of Transportation be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1989:

Provincial transit program, \$13,500,000.

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: Regarding the report that was just presented on the estimates of the Ministry of Transportation, despite all those dollars being spent, the ministry did not find the money to repair the Sultan road.

Mr. Speaker: The next item of business will be motions.

Hon. Mr. Conway: This does not concern the Sultan road, but it does concern the business of the House next Thursday morning.

MOTION

HOUSE SITTING

Hon. Mr. Conway moved that, notwithstanding standing orders 3(b) and 71(a), the House shall meet from 10 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 2, 1989, to consider government business, with routine proceedings to commence at 1:30 p.m.

Motion agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THIRD READINGS

The following bills were given third reading on motion:

Bill 69, An Act to amend the Education Act;

Bill 70, An Act to amend the Education Act;

Bill 128, An Act to amend the Planning Act;

Bill 134, An Act to repeal certain Private Acts related to Municipalities;

Bill 135, An Act to amend the Road Access Act;

Bill 169, An Act to amend the District Municipality of Muskoka Act;

Bill 186, An Act to provide for the Allocation of certain Payments or Grants in lieu of Taxes made by Canada to Municipalities in respect of Lands that are Exempt from Taxation;

Bill 188, An Act to amend the Juries Act;

Bill 192, An Act to amend the Municipal Act and certain other Acts related to Municipalities;

Bill 197, An Act to amend the Regional Municipality of Sudbury Act.

RYERSON POLYTECHNICAL INSTITUTE AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mrs. McLeod moved third reading of Bill 199, An Act to amend the Ryerson Polytechnical Institute Act, 1977.

Mr. Breagh: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: Under standing order 23, I think I should declare a conflict of interest and not participate in this vote.

Mr. Speaker: That will be recorded.

Mr. Breagh: Now I await the pleasure of others who ought to do the same.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I just want to say I am glad that my friend the member for Oshawa admitted to his professorial interest in some of these matters. I wait only to attend one of his lectures.

Mr. Breagh: There is a fee, so you'll never be there.

THIRD READING

The following bill was given third reading on motion:

Bill 203, An Act to amend certain Acts as they relate to the Law Society.

1510

OTTAWA CIVIL SERVICE RECREATIONAL ASSOCIATION ACT

Mr. Reyecraft moved, on behalf of Mr. Chiarelli, second reading of Bill Pr4, An Act respecting The Ottawa Civil Service Recreational Association.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

ASSOCIATION OF TRANSLATORS AND INTERPRETERS OF ONTARIO ACT

LOI SUR L'ASSOCIATION DES TRADUCTEURS ET INTERPRÈTES DE L'ONTARIO

Mr. Poirier moved second reading of Bill Pr36, An Act respecting Association des traduc-

teurs et interprètes de l'Ontario—The Association of Translators and Interpreters of Ontario.

L'hon. M. Poirier propose la deuxième lecture du projet de loi Pr36, Loi concernant l'Association des traducteurs et interprètes de l'Ontario—The Association of Translators and Interpreters of Ontario.

Motion agreed to.

La motion est adoptée.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

La motion de troisième lecture est également adoptée.

CITY OF TRENTON ACT

Mr. Reycraft moved, on behalf of Mrs. Fawcett, second reading of Bill Pr40, An Act respecting the City of Trenton.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

NORTHERN FRONTIER DEVELOP. LTD. ACT

Mr. Reycraft moved, on behalf of Mr. Kozyra, second reading of Bill Pr43, An Act to revive I. Gosselin & F. Camiré Developments Limited and to change its name to Northern Frontier Develop. Ltd.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

SUDBURY HYDRO-ELECTRIC COMMISSION ACT

Mr. Reycraft moved, on behalf of Mr. Campbell, second reading of Bill Pr60, An Act respecting the Sudbury Hydro-Electric Commission.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

SISTERS OF SOCIAL SERVICE ACT

Ms. Collins moved second reading of Bill Pr61, An Act respecting The Sisters of Social Service.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

CITY OF LONDON ACT

Mr. Cureatz moved, on behalf of Mrs. Cunningham, second reading of Bill Pr74, An Act respecting the City of London.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

JOHN ZIVANOVIC HOLDINGS LIMITED ACT

Mr. Offer moved second reading of Bill Pr76, An Act to revive John Zivanovic Holdings Limited.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

TOWN OF MARKHAM ACT

Mr. Cureatz moved, on behalf of Mr. Cousens, second reading of Bill Pr79, An Act respecting the Town of Markham.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

STRATHROY MIDDLESEX GENERAL HOSPITAL ACT

Mr. Reycraft moved second reading of Bill Pr80, An Act respecting Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

WINDSOR LIGHT OPERA ASSOCIATION ACT

Mr. D. S. Cooke moved second reading of Bill Pr81, An Act respecting The Windsor Light Opera Association.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

1520

CONCURRENCE IN SUPPLY, MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Mr. Harris: I think there are a few comments that a couple of members want to make on the concurrence for the Ministry of Community and Social Services. Our critic, who unavoidably could not be here today, I know has lengthy discussions she wishes to make. Perhaps if we do not finish the concurrence with this ministry today, she will have the opportunity on Monday. However, I just want to serve notice that there were a few members who have a few comments they wish to make.

Mr. Allen: I would like to spend a few moments commenting upon the ministry's programs and the financing thereof, which is of course what we are concerned with under concurrences.

In the first place, to revert briefly to the issue I raised in the House today, one of the problems the ministry clearly faces is a fundamental

irrationality in the situation of the ministry attempting programs of deinstitutionalization, programs devolved from ministry institutions and services directly funded to community-based agencies. There are any number of them out there in the vast panoply of services the ministry superintends and funds.

The instance I raised today was a graphic example of the heart of the problem. The heart of the problem is that the government, in providing funding for the community-based agencies, does it in such a way as to maintain and perpetuate a very large gap in the income levels and the resources generally of the community-based agencies as against the old institution-based, directly funded delivery system.

There is a technicality in this that relates to the bargaining procedures the different employee groups undergo, but that in turn is a problem that the ministry and the government should surely long ago have addressed in order to maintain not only parallel but also equivalent growth in the income levels of the agencies and the service deliverers, namely, the workers in those agencies themselves.

What is happening is that in agency after agency, whether one is talking about the Ontario Association for the Mentally Retarded community-based programs, whether one is talking about children's community health centres, whether one is talking about homemaker programs and so on, the salary levels are in many instances barely at and even below the poverty level.

The people I raised the question about today earn \$17,500. If they have a dependant or two, they are below the poverty-line income. That is simply impossible. It is not just what it does to the individuals concerned; it is what it does to the program and, finally, it is what it does to the ministry's and the government's program itself and its intent to devolve programs on to community-based operations.

The agencies themselves are unable to keep the quality of staff, the number of staff, the tenure of staff sufficiently in place to provide continuity of service, length of relationship between the client and the staff worker so that the program may accomplish its intended result, namely, a form of rehabilitation, maintenance, skills development. In the case of the developmentally handicapped, for example, that requires a kind of trust, a kind of confidence in the relationship which provides the foundation for transmitting those skills and maintaining appropriate quality of life for the people concerned.

The situation those agencies find themselves in, the situation the ministry finds itself in is an impossible one in terms of public policy, because what is happening is that the policy itself is being undermined by the very funding levels the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) provides to those agencies. As I say, they are some of the key deliverers of service.

In writing to me about this issue, the minister observed that he hoped there was a long-term solution, and the long-term solution he proposed was the very solution of community-based services. Surely that is a contradiction, because if the problem is the solution and the solution is the problem, where are we going?

That eliminates a gap in a technical sense, because, at the end of the road, he has all the low-funded, low-paid community-based agencies. Presumably, he has got rid of all the directly funded ministry ones and so there is no more gap, but the problem inherently is not solved, because the problem is not so much the gap as the adequacy at the lower end. Surely, of all the questions that the minister has to wrestle with, I think that at this point in time in his ministry that question is the essential one, because it touches so many of the elements that he provides.

One can expand it, for example, into the field of servicing children at risk through children's aid services, where one of the key components is foster homes. Again, it illustrates the difficulty that foster homes are having in both maintaining their numbers and providing the service the minister wants in the first place. Providing or securing an income level that is adequate to the real costs they have is a parallel example with the instances that I have just given.

The parallel is reinforced by the fact that, by and large, the homes that come forward as foster homes tend to be on the lower part of the income scale. They tend to be families that are lesser educated than the norm for Ontario. They tend to be among larger families and, therefore, there are more demands placed upon the parents and upon the family resources, even though they have lower incomes. What one gets again is a service that this ministry relies on, which is characterized by, if you like, the poor serving those who are at risk or who are also poor; because if one looks at where the service delivery goes, in terms of the mentally handicapped, in terms of the children at risk or in terms of a lot of the seniors who need home care, we are talking about poor people.

The community-based programs which the minister is providing and which the Treasurer is

funding at this point in time are in fact institutions of the poor delivering services to the poor. I am not exactly sure that the minister would feel comfortable looking at the situation that way. I certainly do not feel comfortable looking at the situation that way. Certainly, it raises some fundamental questions about the delivery of social services in Ontario, where we are seeing a growing gap between the rich and the poor.

We have had a good deal of discussion lately on those points around the Social Assistance Review Committee report and the issues that it addresses: the existence of a persistent million-plus poor in Ontario, dependent poor and working poor, and the fact that 41 per cent of the children on the social assistance rolls that the minister superintends, over 200,000 people, are children under the age of 18.

Recent international reports tell us that as far as deep poverty among children is concerned, Canada is the second-worst example in the western world. In a situation of persistent poverty in the midst of an apparently and superficially affluent economy, for the government itself to be fostering agencies which become ghettos of the poor, providing service to the poor, is surely a moral issue that cannot be evaded.

I hope the minister will address the question in those terms, because it is not just a question of irrational funding or funding contradicting public policy. It is a question which is inherently moral in its very essence and, I think, cannot be evaded.

1530

While the Treasurer may stand and say, "Yes, of course, there are X million additional dollars flowing to the Ministry of Community and Social Services budget in the past year or the past number of years and that is a growing budget," it still does not answer the essential moral and social question of the existence of poverty and the existence within the very structure of government of the poor ghettoized in labour serving the poor ghettoized in other ways.

Somehow, unless this government simply says quite frankly that, "The poor are always with you, they always will be and there is not much we're going to do about it in terms of any final and full solution," there has to be some kind of accounting.

The central point I want to make, without embarking on an analysis of each of the programs in turn or of reverting to the fact that the minister, for example, when he dealt with the home-makers' crisis, conveniently left my community out of the accounting, and Hamilton has been

angry ever since with him about that little item—one can, of course, go on in concurrences and add item after item after item after item—is to focus upon the essential moral and social issue the government has to come to grips with. It is the same issue the minister is going to have to come grips with, the Treasurer is going to have to come to grips with and the Premier (Mr. Peterson) is going to have to come to grips with in regard to the Social Assistance Review Committee's report in the very near future.

The fundamental question is: In the midst of the wealthiest economy in this nation, in the midst of so much development and growth, in particular in the heartland of Ontario, are we going to come to grips with the fact of persistent poverty, when in fact we know we can overcome by far the larger part of that if we work out programs that are adequate and fund them appropriately?

Although the Treasurer refuses to do studies that will tell him exactly what the savings and the economic benefits are, we also know, where studies have been done on the application of certain kinds of approaches in the social policy sector, that the investment does pay off down the road. What the Treasurer is doing by refusing to fund adequately and appropriately the minister's programs is driving up just about every other budget in government that touches upon the social policy area.

He is driving up the Health budget by virtue of the health costs of poor kids who grow up and get into the network, and develop health problems down the road. The Treasurer is driving up the costs of the Correctional Services budget in terms of the delinquency and inappropriate behaviour of young people who, under the pressures of poverty, misbehave in various ways, some more extreme than others. He is driving up the costs of the Ministry of Education in terms of the programs that are necessary for the learning disabilities which largely are generated, as the minister must know, by problems of poor nutrition, ill health and the rest, problems of motivation that derive from impoverished situations.

One could go through ministry after ministry and point out in quite specific terms how the budgets of those ministers are being elevated, pushed through the ceiling in some cases, in substantial measure because we have failed to grapple with the large and endemic element of poverty that resides in our midst.

Before I sit down, not wanting, as I say, to go through a lot of notes I could certainly work my

way through on a lot of details around programs, I simply want to reinforce that point for him. There is a moral and social challenge this government has to meet if it is to face itself in the days ahead, and to look credibly at itself in the mirror each morning.

I am sure the minister is like all the rest of us human beings in developed circumstances. We all have mirrors, we all stand there and look at ourselves, particularly, I guess, the male of the species in a particular operation each morning. We have to understand who we are looking at and what the visage is that is coming back and what it says to us, and the picture has to—if you can go on doing this: consciously looking at yourself morning after morning—presumably, embody some sense of moral credibility in the activities that the ministries engage in day-in, day-out in the programming of this government.

It is just that moral and social issue that I want to confront the minister with, which is very fundamental and which I hope he will address later; but I know that, even more directly, it has to be put to the Treasurer of this province; to the Premier; to the entire government. The government itself is the one agency that can go out there and challenge this entire province to address this problem, and to lay out—because it has the research resources—the costs for this province of not doing so.

I call upon the minister to respond to the issue on those terms.

Mrs. Marland: In terms of programs, there are a lot of areas in the Ministry of Community and Social Services that I feel need more concern by the minister; certainly more funding for that minister by the Treasurer, obviously. For those of us who recognize how the cabinet sweepstakes work, the cabinet table is simply a forum—a poker game probably is not the right analogy—around which ministers ask for their share of the provincial pie in terms of money.

Frankly, I think that the priorities of this Liberal government have not been made on the basis of human need first. Had they been made on the basis of human need, we certainly would not have put all the thousands of people in this province who were put into a greater deal of discomfort and concern, waiting for the final decision as to whether the Canadian Red Cross Homemaker Service would be bailed out or not. When I say “bailed out,” it is not that the Red Cross Homemaker Service was not managed and administered in a responsible way; it is just that the homemaker service is the only nonprofit service that renders that care in the home for

people who need it all over the province, regardless of where those people live, regardless of whether it means that there are a lot of calls within a close area or whether there is a lot of travel distance in between.

When people need a homemaker service, it is very often the final point between that person’s—who may be ill, frail, elderly or disabled—staying in his home, or having to go to a hospital or an institutional setting. I think, quite frankly, that the past six months of final negotiations between the Red Cross Society and the Ontario Liberal government, about just how much subsidy was going to be forthcoming for that program, was an example of a very barbaric practice.

Personally, I thought it was very unfair to elevate the anxiety level of the people who need that service to where all of us in this Legislature were recipients of petitions, telephone calls, letters and personal contacts at public meetings, and individual meetings with people in our offices begging, pleading and cajoling for support of their need of that homemaker service.

1540

The people who have those needs should not be subjected to that kind of anxiety and trauma. It is indeed trauma when people who are at the point of wondering how they are going to manage to stay at home without the auxiliary service that the Red Cross homemaker program provides, and if they cannot stay at home, the tremendous fear and apprehension—because where do they go? We do not have alternative accommodation for a lot of these people. We do not have nursing home beds or chronic care beds in this province available for people who cannot stay at home and be cared for in their own homes.

Another program that is in a similar category of need for the people in this province which the current Liberal government does not seem to want to do anything about is the attendant care program.

There has been a report on attendant care. That is a program specifically directed to the disabled in this province, and yet we do not, as yet, see any action. We do not see any extension to people with disabilities who need a home support program that enables them, as the attendant care program does, to get out of their homes and be able to participate in what, for most of us, are everyday opportunities; for example, an opportunity as simple as going to work, perhaps being able to go to school, perhaps being able to continue education which has been interrupted through a debilitating disease or accident.

The attendant care program is indeed one which the disabled community of this province has been waiting very anxiously for this Liberal government to decide it will put into action and fund.

It is obvious that if we have a government that believes in people remaining in their homes and not having to require institutional settings, those home support community programs must be there, and they must be there with continuity and assurance that we are not going to have the kind of situation the people have experienced this past year in Ontario.

If the Liberal government is going to campaign on promises of being everything to everybody and having a program that is going to be a solution that will touch everyone in need, then it has to be an honest promise that is fulfilled.

Tragically, in the last 18 months, we have had one program after another that has not been fulfilled. We have had many promises and commitments that were made by this Liberal government to the people of Ontario that have not been met. Frankly, I think where you are dealing with people in the greatest need—and those are people who are physically or mentally disabled, as I said a few moments ago, frail and elderly and people who are ill—when those people's needs are not being met by programs of this Liberal government, then frankly, I guess we have to wonder where the money is being spent and how any humane government could ignore prioritizing in terms of human need first.

We also, of course, have been waiting with great anticipation for the recommendations of the Social Assistance Review Committee report. We have been waiting with bated breath for those recommendations to be implemented. We know that in the real world Queen's Park certainly is not a money tree. We know also that this Liberal government in the past 12 months increased taxes in this province to an unprecedented limit. We know that the tax grab in the past 12 months in Ontario by the Liberal government was so astounding that people are still reeling from it. I can give one example: a one per cent retail sales tax which in fact was a 15 per cent increase on sales tax. With all of these increases in taxes in the province, we would have thought that all the needs that come under the Ministry of Community and Social Services would be met, because it is very easy to decide where the priorities lie.

In the past two weeks, I stood in this House and spoke about a family that has been on a waiting list for four years in this province for accommodation. I made that statement in mem-

bers' statements. I was limited, of course, to one and a half minutes for the details of that family.

Interjection.

Mrs. Marland: I am sure the member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay (Mr. Black) is a caring member on behalf of his community and would not really wish to be interjecting at this point had he a family in the circumstances of the McConnell family. For the sake of those Liberal government members who have not heard or understood the need of this particular family, I will tell them that this is a family with two daughters who are now aged 19 and 21. They were both born with physical and psychological disabilities. Both of them have been in wheelchairs for more than 10 years. Their physical disability and their mental retardation have been something that family has coped with in a private sense until the last four years.

When I say "in a private sense," this is a family that has never asked any level of government for support. This is a family where the mother went out to work at night to earn money to provide some motor muscle co-ordination programs for those two girls during the day. The mother worked at night when the husband was out of work in order that she could be up during the day to care for these two girls.

The worst part of this story, which is totally factual, of course, is that in the last four years Mrs. McConnell now has cancer herself. This mother for four years has been asking the government to accommodate these two daughters. Because of their ages, 19 and 21, they can no longer plan to stay at home in the apartment with the two parents. Also, because these two sisters have always lived together and have never been apart and do not, because of their disabilities, have an opportunity to socially interact with any other people, they are very interdependent on each other.

Since Mrs. McConnell has cancer, her physical health has of course diminished her ability to meet the needs of these two daughters. For four years this family has been waiting to have accommodation. For four years the government has told them that for this participation house or this program or that program, wherever the residential programs are for young women with these kinds of disabilities, they are on a waiting list.

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For four years, they have been on a waiting list. In one particular case, they were told they could not be accepted on a waiting list of this facility because they were too greatly handi-

capped or disabled, whatever terminology you want to use. Their problems were too great for them to be a priority for some of the facilities in a residential setting where programs exist in this province.

What I want to know in 1989 when we can afford to do all the luxurious things we still do every day in this province for people who are normal—I might include here a particular pet peeve I have. I still do not accept that the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) can sit by, with all the programs he needs money for that he is continually turned down for, I assume, because those programs are not in existence, while the Minister of Education (Mr. Ward) establishes a program around this province to reduce class size from 30 to 20 in grades 1 and 2.

How is it that this Liberal government has a greater priority for these normal kids in grades 1 and 2 while we have—certainly, I know that this minister has been trying to resolve another problem of a youngster in my riding whose first name is Timmy. I will not record his second name in Hansard, because I have not asked the family if I may do that. He has been waiting for four years for a residential setting. He is so multiply disabled or handicapped that he cannot walk, see or speak. How is it that we do not have programs for these children with very special needs, and yet we think it is a priority for normal kids to be in a class of 20 rather than 30?

We have no empirical evidence to prove, academically speaking, that children learn better in a class with 20 children in it than with 30. For those of us who were in classes of 35 to 40 kids, we know quite well that reduction of class size does not have any impact on the learning environment, and any professional educator will tell you this, until you get into small class sizes which are considered to be 10, 12 or maybe even 14 children.

But this Liberal government, on a campaign promise pulled out of the air, decided it would be a priority to reduce class sizes in grades 1 and 2 around this province. There is no promise, of course, about what happens to those kids when they go into grade 3 and suddenly they are back in a large class. There was no planning at all. It was just something that sounded good to the Liberals when they were campaigning in the fall of 1987.

They never asked the school boards if that was their priority. We have children in portables in the Dufferin-Peel school board system. In the region of Peel, we have children in grade 13 who

have never had a day's education outside of a portable.

You have to wonder what the priorities are of a Liberal government that plucks these programs out of the air, yet does not look at the huge catalogue of waiting lists of the needs of people who have special care requirements. That is the responsibility of the Minister of Community and Social Services, and those are the programs any member of this Legislature could stand on a public platform and defend simply by saying:

"I'm sorry. We can't reduce your class sizes in grades 1 and 2 in this province. We'd like to try that, but we don't have the money for that. But we are looking after Theresa and Maria McConnell while their mother has cancer. We are looking at young Timmy. We are looking at the hundreds of others who have special needs."

In conclusion, I can tell members that the most heartbreaking responsibility I have had in my 15 years in politics has been in the last four years, realizing that special needs do not have a priority for this Liberal government. If they did, these families I am talking about would have been accommodated. There would have been the noninstitutional but residential settings and extra help for those families that are needed, and we would not be doing all these other things that seem to be vote-getting programs flitting around the province.

Mr. Pouliot: I wish to get the attention of the House for a few moments regarding what has reached crisis proportions. But before I begin, I would like to put on the record and say publicly something I have felt for some time regarding the Minister of Community and Social Services.

I know of the minister's knowledge. We evaluate in "closed circles," and given human nature, sometimes the bad news travels quickly and the good news takes a little longer to reach us, but I know of the minister's knowledge. He knows the ministry very well. He is very articulate in putting forward his vision, what he sees as needing to be done so that tomorrow can indeed be brighter and better than today.

I do not believe the commitment of the minister can be questioned. When you see someone addressing a subject matter that he is quite fond of, quite knowledgeable about and familiar with, it is nice to see him perspiring sincerity. In the minister's case, you can also see the sincerity. Therefore, it must be very difficult for the minister, as the captain of that department, when he travels throughout the province and sees people who are providing such an essential service as homemakers do.

Whether we are talking in terms of the human dimension—the comfort, the warmth they bring people in providing such essential services as a little bit of shopping, a lot of cleaning, some lifting involving some risk and a wide range of services they are not mandated for, the kinds of services you do not establish terms of reference, or if you wish, work classifications or descriptions for—notwithstanding the human dimension, the most important element is the relationship, even if we were to look solely at the cost factor.

A buck is a buck. Keeping people out of institutions, the difference between the client or the patient being kept functional in society or being institutionalized—in the case of northern Ontario, to be institutionalized means you leave your friends, you leave the community and you sometimes go 200 or 250 miles away. It is not unlike sending a Turk to Denmark, and yes, you begin to die a little.

I am not catastrophizing. People are very vulnerable under those circumstances. It is not a gentle push, but a rude shove when you almost have to apologize for still being part of society. Yet when those patriots take a look at the pay envelope, the paycheck—we have recently had a task force of our party when we examined and listened to presenters telling us about what needs to be done, telling us about the good things also, because there are a lot of good things that are happening, but identifying the shortcomings and the pitfalls associated with the homemaker service.

People said: "Mr. Pouliot, I know of three homemakers in our community, two of whom are getting less than \$5 an hour in wages. One by virtue, on account of and by reason of having been there for more than three years, is getting a salary that surpasses and finally exceeds \$5 an hour."

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I know how difficult it must be for the minister, how long he must agonize when he knows that what is being done here is wrong. In pure terms of economics, it is the difference in keeping people functional in society, keeping them at home, outside the institutions, at a saving of hundreds of dollars per day to taxpayers. It is a reality we must address. But when we look at the proverbial pay envelope, people are compensated at \$5 or \$4.70 an hour for work that is often unpleasant, sometimes for work that borders on nothing short of sainthood—not particularly in the minister's case.

When all is said and done, the price of a limousine, the cost factor—I do not begrudge the

minister. I know the line that separates what needs to be said. I am quite aware of ethics, of decorum and of unwritten rules. It never stops really appalling me, when all is said and done. The minister has mentioned that it is not enough, that he wishes he could do more. To pay people \$5 an hour today is a pittance. It is an insult. It is an invitation to low morale and high turnover.

How would the minister like to have someone taking "good care of him," knowing that at the end of the day that person is receiving no fringe benefits—\$5 an hour to bring that person a bit of comfort—and has to pay \$1 to take the subway and \$1 to take the subway home afterwards? In other words, for the first hour that person would be paid \$3 per hour.

We do not have to go to a different ministry to talk about rent increases and the high cost of living in Metropolitan Toronto. Suffice it to say that in the year of our Lord 1989, when government revenues are surpassing anything ever seen before, when the Treasurer says the times are good times, when the budget has never been as large—planned, anticipated and not anticipated—someone pays this to the less fortunate in our society who are providing perhaps the most essential of services, giving far more into the system than what they ever expect to receive.

I think it is a black eye. I think it is a shameful situation that needs redressing. It is all very fine to say, "We just do not have enough money." One can appreciate that. It does not grow on trees. We do not have money trees to satisfy the needs of everyone. We give them a verbal pat on the back. We may even have a homemakers' week. Maybe we will buy them caps and T-shirts. But more importantly, put it in the pay envelope.

I happen to believe that there is enough money in the system, but what is not right is the distribution of those funds. I have not met a presenter, a club, an organization, clients, patients, hospital directors, people in the health field at any level, who do not feel a bit embarrassed and ashamed of the salaries that are being paid to people who deserve the most.

I know the minister will wrestle with the need to redress what is really a bad situation. I would not challenge, but ask the minister to really keep in mind that in terms of getting value for money, it is really for a few dollars more that justice could be done. The turnover would lessen, the morale would be enhanced, and just as important, the people who are the recipients of this essential service could at long last look to the future with confidence. They would look at the

program as being continuous, perennial, residual, for ever, and as human beings, we would know that we had simply done what is right.

Mr. Harris: I will not take very long. I want to mention two items. First of all, the Premier issued a press release today announcing that George Thomson would be the new Deputy Minister of Citizenship. I mention this in the context of these concurrences, as we concur in the estimates of the Ministry of Community and Social Services, in this context.

George Thomson was the chairman of the Social Assistance Review Committee, the famous SARC, and indeed was the one we had counted on in our party and I believe in the New Democratic Party, and I believe on behalf of all of those my colleague the member for Mississauga—

Mrs. Marland: Mississauga South.

Mr. Harris: South. I do not know why I cannot keep the four Mississaugas—

Interjection.

Mr. Harris: When there were three Mississaugas, I knew them all and who was there. Now there are four. I know there is only one member who truly, efficiently and in a proper and correct way represents all of Mississauga and that is the member for Mississauga South.

Certainly, the comments that have been raised by the member for Mississauga South, and by other members as we sum up here and concur in these estimates, talked about people, real people, and the SARC report was a blueprint that really had been pretty well accepted by those people concerned with the delivery and concerned about our welfare programs. It was certainly well received by our party.

I mention George Thomson in that context. It is with mixed feelings that I see his new appointment to the deputy minister ranks. Obviously, wishing him the best, and I do not in the slightest way judge his qualifications, but I say it in the context that I fear we have lost a lobbyist for that SARC report, because no one in my view had more credibility or ability to lobby, on behalf of and in conjunction with our party and others who are concerned, for more and more of the SARC report to be implemented.

A number of those recommendations do not cost money. They are within the purview of the minister. Many of them do cost money, and while there may be money-saving benefits down the road, they will require dollars upfront. I know the minister knows that and I know he shares our concern. I believe in that context we are allies in

trying to convince the Treasurer, the Premier, this government and indeed all taxpayers that this should be a priority because ultimately it is the taxpayers who pay the bills.

In the case of this government—in an alarming sense, I might add, more so than any government I have seen—public opinion polling in the sense of “What does the public want?” seems to dictate decisions more than is really right. The question should be, “What should be the right decision?” not, “What is politically popular at this time?”

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I say that in mentioning George Thomson's promotion to the House. I know the press release came out today. I hope others will come forward in lobbying on behalf of the Social Assistance Review Committee, on behalf of changes in the way we deal with welfare and, indeed, on behalf of not only how we operate but dollars.

I also want to reflect on a couple of things that have been said by a number of other members. They did not doubt this minister's sincerity and dedication to the job. Some will say that the way I am about to phrase it is a back-handed compliment to the government. Indeed it is, but it is a compliment to this minister. I believe he lobbies hard for his ministry. I believe he sincerely wants to do the right thing. I believe he is the least political of all the ministers in this government in that sense.

I want to publicly put on the record on behalf of myself and, I think, all my colleagues that we are very impressed with the way this minister answers questions in the House. He treats our concerns seriously. The back-handed part of it, I suppose—and I am sorry it has to be mentioned—is that it is not reflected by very many other ministers in this government, so he stands out in stark contrast to his colleagues.

In giving this compliment and congratulating the minister and telling him that we enjoy working with him because of his commitment and his attitude towards sincerely trying to solve problems more so than the political partisanship—not that he is not a political minister; he is good at that, as well, and has proved himself throughout the years—I say it in the sense that I sincerely hope a number of other ministers of the crown will say: “Gosh, I wish I could get compliments like that. What is it that John does so well that perhaps I should emulate?” I say it in that context.

I have one other concern, as we concur in these estimates. I brought up in the estimates on January 31 the concern that I had with my local association of the mentally retarded in particular,

which indeed is reflected across this province in the difficulties that the association was having in coping with what I think the member for Hamilton West (Mr. Allen)—I know I am always supposed to get the ridings right—referred to as almost a two-tiered system of rate of pay, depending on whether you work directly for the government or for a transfer agency.

On January 31, if the minister recalls, I indicated that there was going to be a strike unless the government stepped in and recognized that it had a responsibility in this area. It centred on this, and the minister acknowledged at that time that he could transfer only four per cent to the local office of the Ministry of Community and Social Services and that it, indeed, could transfer only four per cent to the transfer agency.

I think the minister acknowledged the wage discrepancy—particularly with regard to the Muskoka Centre, which is so glaringly apparent in my area—of some \$6,000 at the starting salary range, for those employees of the local association for the mentally retarded doing essentially the same job, vis-à-vis those employees of the ministry at the Muskoka Centre, which is a schedule 2 agency.

I indicated at that time that unless we could solve this problem there was going to be a strike and, indeed, today there is a strike. Members of the House and the minister will know that some of those employees engaged in a sit-in in a local office in North Bay—that has expired now; or let's say they have removed themselves from the sit-in—however, are still picketing, and we hope that negotiations are still ongoing.

At that time, I suggested to the minister that they were asking for some direction. I have the Hansard of that day. I said I thought it fair that if the minister was not going to give them money, he should publicly come out and say they are going to have to cut service, because they are not going to settle this at four per cent. The employees, I think the minister acknowledges and we all acknowledge, deserve more, must get more and we must begin to close that gap.

The type of employees who take on these jobs—very difficult jobs, jobs that are very emotionally draining, for salaries that are substantially below what they can achieve in other areas—are not the types of employees whom you would expect to be carrying picket signs; not the type of people you would expect to be engaging in a sit-in. So you can see how strongly they feel about it.

At that time, the minister agreed with me that it was a valid choice. There is another choice: the

minister can give them more money. I guess I am, through the minister, by raising it again, by talking about it, suggesting to the Treasurer—and hope it is a top priority of his and that we are pushing in the same direction—that one of the options is more money.

I think we agree there are three scenarios. The minister can transfer more money, and they will be able to meet those demands, settle that strike, get people back to work and close that gap. That option for this year did not appear to be a reality and we acknowledged that at that time; we are trying to change that.

The second option is that they will be on strike, which is what indeed occurred, and they could be on strike, I suppose, for the next 100 years if something does not happen with either the first option or the third option, which is that the association will have to pay the money beyond the four per cent in spite of the fact that it is getting only four per cent from the minister, and then it will have to cut services elsewhere.

The minister indicated, and I appreciate his honesty and forthrightness that yes, indeed, those are the three options; to this stage, the third option is likely the one that is going to have to happen to resolve this strike.

I would ask the minister, in his response today, to give us an indication if indeed that is going to be the option of what it is, in his mind, that they should be cutting; what services should they be cutting out in order to be able to continue this service?

I think the ministry has to accept some of that responsibility as well. Are the minister, his office and his ministry willing to sit down with them and say, "I positively cannot get you more money. We will have to sit down with you and figure out what service you are going to cut," or to sit down with the local office and say: "We are only giving you four per cent. If you are going to transfer more than four per cent to this association, what is it you are going to cut?" I think it is not good enough to take a course of action that acknowledges that they are going to have to cut services and not help them and assist them as to what services are going to have to be cut.

1620

Having said that, I admire the minister's honesty in recognizing that is one of the options. I really think it is disgraceful that it is an option, though. I hope that together, the minister, those of us who are concerned, those who are present in this chamber and those who I know have other pressing commitments but maybe are watching or will read the remarks, will try to impress upon

the Premier and the Treasurer that that option ought not to be the option we force this minister into, that we force his ministry into, that we force the ministry staff in North Bay into, and thereby, the association responsible for delivering these programs.

I ask the minister once again to give us some signal of hope. As I understand it, it is not a lot of money. I may be wrong; he may know more about the negotiations than I. Even something in the area of 5.5 per cent for that portion of the budget would begin to close the gap. I am surprised they would settle for that, but that would go a long way. I ask the minister to give us some hope that this is still a possibility, that by working together we can do that; and failing that, to give us some direction as to what services in Nipissing must be cut.

Miss Martel: I do not want to spend a lot of time in debate this afternoon, but I do want to raise two matters which I was unable to during the estimates of the ministry, given that I was away on the health care tour in northern Ontario.

I just want to pick up on what was said by the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) and express my concern as well for the situation that is occurring right now in the province. I know that my colleague the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) and the member for Sudbury (Mr. Campbell) met with both the Sudbury District Association for Community Living and the Valley East Association for Community Living, which is directly in my riding, some time ago; in fact, on January 13.

We met with the board members at that time and heard their concerns about the inadequate funding, the wage disparities between their workers and those working in institutions, and the problem that was causing for all their workers.

There was a second problem, that they did not have enough people to in any way, shape or form fill the need, and certainly had not enough staff to even consider those people who were going to be coming back into the community as deinstitutionalization continued. They were gravely concerned about their inability to attract staff, given the wage differential. They were discouraged about that and the fact that they seemed to be getting nowhere with the Treasurer.

I must say to the minister that I am extremely concerned as well; they are in a legal strike position in Sudbury. We have met with the board. I am meeting with the parents next week, and I know we have a meeting with the union representatives. I hope that before this whole

matter becomes terribly difficult for both the clientele and those providing service, something can be done via his ministry and via the Treasury.

The second point I would like to raise concerns particular constituents in my riding. The minister may or may not be aware of the situation, but I would like to go through it again and ask for his reconsideration of this whole matter.

We have constituents in the riding of Sudbury East, who live in my home town of Capreol, actually. The family is a family of three children; two of those children are microcephalic. I am not a doctor, I am not an expert; I can only say to the minister and to the House that both of the daughters are blind, they are deaf, they cannot speak and they are in wheelchairs; they have very few motor skills. But the family, particularly Mrs. Watters, has found it in her heart and with tremendous strength—I do not know where she gets it—has kept those children at home. It seems to me that the oldest daughter is at least nine at this point and then there is the second one; they have a third child who does not have all these problems but that child is only a newborn.

In any event, the decision was made by the family, with great difficulty, to keep those two children at home and to provide for them at home rather than putting them in institutions. It was a tremendous choice for the family to make, but they have done it and I, for one, must congratulate both Mr. and Mrs. Watters for the care and the time and the tremendous challenge that they have agreed to face.

The family approached his ministry in 1987, June or July, in order to request special funding through an order in council to purchase a specially equipped van so that they might be able to move the children about. They are in wheelchairs, but it is becoming increasingly difficult for Mrs. Watters, who is at home a good portion of the time—her husband works for Canadian National and is out on the road a lot—it is incredibly difficult for her now to move the children in and out of the stationwagon and then pack up the wheelchairs and go from there.

Although a van has been provided whereby they can go to school, for the therapy classes they must attend and for any other endeavour or activity they would like to take the children on, they are having great difficulty in actually physically moving them, given their age and weight, etc. They applied to the ministry in about summer 1987 and that request was denied.

About a year later, our federal MP, who is a particular friend of the family, became involved and wrote to the minister and asked him

specifically to reconsider. He pointed out that the family was in this particular situation, they had agreed to keep the children at home, they were doing a tremendous job but they did need some extra service in terms of providing transportation for them.

His ministry, I am first to admit, has been very good in providing special funding within the home. There was a substantial amount of money that was forwarded for that purpose and I thank the minister for that, but they do have this second request which has become very important to them at this point in time.

At that time, they were looking for somewhere in the order of \$20,000 to purchase a new van. That has subsequently changed. When my colleague wrote to the minister, he asked him to reconsider, especially in light of the fact that the husband, Mr. Watters, had been hurt at work and had been on compensation for some time. He eventually ended up on compensation for nine months, so the income of the family was certainly reduced from what it had been and they were not in a position themselves to purchase a van, given the limited financial resources.

We received a letter from the minister in November 1988 whereby he outlined that the ministry was going to review the entire situation and consider the possibility of funding through an order in council, given the decrease in the family's income at the time. We were advised that the matter was being reviewed and we would be advised in the future as to the outcome of that.

Unfortunately, although I have not received the letter, I have been told by the Ministry of Community and Social Services office in Sudbury that a letter is on the way and that the request has been denied again. I must say I was extremely disappointed to see that. I think this family deserves a great deal of credit for the courage they have shown in meeting the challenge, and it certainly is a tremendous challenge that they face in trying to keep these children in their home and provide as normal a lifestyle as they can for them.

Although I have not talked to Mrs. Watters again and I have not seen a copy of the letter myself, I am of the understanding that this has been denied. I cannot understand how it can be, in a province this rich and in a province where the government claims we are trying to move to community-based care and keep people out of high-cost institutions, that we cannot find this kind of funding to provide for and meet this type of need.

At this point, the request that was made for funding was somewhere in the order now of about \$8,600 versus the \$20,000 previously, because the husband happens to be back at work and they are going to purchase a used van and not a new van.

I would just like to say to the minister that if this is the end of the road, then I am extremely disappointed by that. I know he has been very quick to respond on any questions I have raised in this House. We have some other issues concerning family benefits and the custody and support branch and he has been very good to respond there as well, but I would really hope that he might consider looking at this again in light of the circumstances.

1630

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: Oh, gosh. I have got quite a number of points here that have been brought to my attention by a number of speakers and I am not sure I can do justice to all of them. The points were placed with great integrity and great passion by quite a number of members, and I am not sure I can match that. Let me do it as quickly as I can.

Let me begin with the very last request that was made. As the member for Sudbury East (Miss Martel) has pointed out, our ministry, through a number of programs, has put significant resources into that particular family. I appreciated the fact that she was aware of that. I particularly remember the request that she is drawing to my attention, the first request, that is, and I had—

Let me just step aside for a minute. Perhaps the member may be aware of the fact that mine is about the only ministry of government that puts in those kinds of orders in council. We do quite a few of them, and the whole point behind them is to examine the total range of resources that is available to a family, the extra financial and emotional burden that families take on of the nature that the honourable member has just described, and to try to provide some of that extra support that makes the difference of the family being able to, quite frankly, survive with that extra task. We do this on a quite regular basis.

The difficulty I had with that original request was that the family was asking for support to fund the entire van and all that goes with it. We normally do not do that. What we normally do is say to the family, "You do as much as you can, and then we will come in and provide the additional one." Usually what happens is that the family will trade in the family car for a van, and then we will provide the necessary resources to

equip the van, and we are usually talking of something in the neighbourhood of \$7,000, \$8,000 or \$9,000. That is fairly typical. We do that on a fairly regular basis.

We do the same thing with renovations in a family's home. If they say, "Look, these renovations are going to cost \$25,000 or \$30,000. Through various sources, we think we can come up with about half of that. Can you help us with the other half?" we normally would do that sort of thing.

That was the problem I had with the first request and that is what I sent back to the area office. I do not have any problem with helping, but I did not think it was appropriate for us to assume the responsibility for the entire project, given that we were putting so many other resources in there in various other ways. I asked my people to go back to the family and say, "Look, is there some way we can work together on this one?"

I was aware of the fact that a second report had come down. I am not aware, and I am quite prepared to doublecheck, given the information the honourable member has just given me, that in fact there had been any rejection of the second request. I do not recall it coming across my desk, and since I have to sign every one of them, I am usually pretty much on top of these, although there are so many of them that go through, I must admit that I cannot recall every single one of them.

I will accept the honourable member's invitation and request to review the second request, because from the way in which she described it, it looks to be the kind of thing that we would normally try to assist on.

I am going kind of backwards because I notice that certain members are present. With respect to the North Bay and District Association for the Mentally Retarded wage question, the member for Nipissing is correct that this issue was raised in the estimates and we had the kind of discussion that he did indicate. I am aware that there is a strike going on right now. As a matter of fact, there was a sit-in by a small number of the strikers in our office in North Bay from, I believe, Tuesday evening until this morning at about 10 o'clock. Therefore, I am very much aware of the depth of the sense that the workers in this association have with respect to this particular issue.

Let me try to answer it, then come back to the member for Hamilton West who spoke right at the very beginning. I consider that I literally almost have two ministries. My total budget of

about \$4.3 billion is divided almost half and half between the income support side, which is about \$2.1 billion, and all the other community programs that we have, which is about \$2.2 billion. While there are obviously overlaps between those two main endeavours of my ministry, they are somewhat distinct in certain ways as well. There are a number of people whom we serve on both sides and there are a number whom we serve on one or the other. Therefore, when I look at the needs of my ministry, I try to look at them from those two perspectives.

This year I have gone, with respect to my budget requests, with two major thrusts. With respect to the first one, income maintenance, I will be echoing the words of two or three of the members who spoke, the member for Mississauga South and the member for Hamilton West, with respect to the Social Assistance Review. In my judgement, and I believe I have said it in this House on other occasions, it is a vision of the future.

It is a sense of the direction in which we want to go, a blueprint, a road map, whatever terminology you want to use. In terms of that section of my ministry, the social assistance side of my ministry, my main thrust this year is to move as much as we possibly can on that issue. Now it will mean there are other things I will not be able to do on that side. That is the main thrust. I have picked that up, I have decided that I have to make choices, as every one of us in this House has to make choices from time to time.

Moving to the other side of my ministry, the whole range of community programs we have, on the basis of the number of times the issue has come up in this House from various members and the number of opportunities I have had to travel around the province and meet the administration, the volunteer boards and the employees of the 1,800-plus agencies that we work with across the province, I have determined this year that the single biggest issue we have to resolve is the whole question of wage parity or beginning to close the disparity that exists at the present time.

Once again, I have made that my major thrust on that side. It affects a number of different kinds of agencies, but what it will obviously mean once again, and I guess I am coming back in a larger way to the reference of the member for Nipissing to his specific association for the mentally retarded, is that there are a number of other things I will not be able to move on.

For example, I want to do a great deal more with our young offenders programs; I am not

going to be able to do everything I want to do. I want to do more with our children's mental health programs; I am not going to be able to do as much as I want to do. I want to do more with our family violence programs; I am not going to be able to do as much with those.

I want to do more in day care; I want to do more with our children's aid societies; I want to do more with our native programs; I want to do more with our vocational rehabilitation programs. They are all there as well. It is one of the difficult parts of my ministry because, quite frankly, I would like to be able to deal with all of them.

I had a certain twinge when the member for Hamilton West said that, every morning as I am shaving, I have to look at myself in the mirror and recognize that there is this whole range of service needs out there that, in some kind of a perfect society, all ought to be met because they are all valid. I am not going to be able to do that, despite the fact that we have done a fair number of things in all of those areas I mentioned. We have doubled and tripled the budgets in every one of them, yet the need still remains very significant.

But the major thrust, and I want to share this with my colleagues, all of those who touched on it in one way or the other, is on the whole question of wage disparity. I concur very much with the comments that were made, that this to a large extent is the root, the foundation of the entire community service part of my ministry, not only all the services we provide in the ministry for the people who are living there, but as the member for Hamilton West drew very obvious attention to, the fact that we are directing people out of institutions and back into the community.

That is only going to work, is only going to be valid, is only going to be supported by the people we are serving, their families and the agencies that deliver these programs, if we have a fair wage policy in those communities. Therefore, I want very much want to go on record at this point in time that these are the two big thrusts in my ministry for the coming budget year.

But I have to share with the members again that it is going to mean that a number of other things simply will not get done to the degree I would like to have them done and they would like to have them done. The honourable member for Mississauga South made the observation that the Treasurer took in quite a number of new dollars this year in his 1988-89 budget and that, on the basis of those, we should be able to do so many

more things; we should be able to solve so many more of these problems.

1640

I think there was one other point in time in this House when I drew to somebody's attention that of the new \$1.3 billion raised in 1988-89, through the one per cent increase in income tax and the one per cent increase in sales tax, \$1.2 billion went to the Ministry of Health. I do not begrudge that. Every member in this House knows that hardly a day goes by when some member does not rise in his or her seat and question the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) about doing even more.

But, despite the fact that the Treasurer was able to pick up a new \$1.3 billion, it was all used up in one ministry, and a very valid ministry it is. Please do not mistake my comments: I am not disputing whether that was an appropriate thing to do, but I simply want to share with members the fact that there was not much left.

For example, in the last two years, my ministry's budget was increased by roughly \$1 billion, about \$500 million every year. That is a lot of money. We have put a lot of money into all of those programs I talked about, and yet we still have all of these shortfalls.

When the member for Hamilton West talks about the sort of things that we do in our ministry as being a range of moral issues, I concur very much with him. That was one of the reasons why, when the Premier spoke to me after the 1987 election and asked me, as he did all of his ministers: "What do you want to do? Is there something else you would rather do?" I said, "No, I would rather stay in this ministry," despite the fact that we in this House all know that it is a difficult one because there are so many things that need to be done and you can never do them all, and you always feel a little bit frustrated because no matter how much you do, there is so much you cannot do.

I want to pick up the theme of the moral imperative of what this ministry stands for, the fact that it so much represents the very foundation of the kind of society and of the kind of communities that we want to live in. While roughly 90 per cent of the population in this province is doing pretty well, and we are in good economic times, about 10 per cent is not, and that is what I represent, mainly that 10 per cent.

I do not represent all the kids who go to school and are getting good service; all the people who are going to hospitals and are getting reasonably good service; the people who use highways and the people who are affected by the environment.

Those are all important things, but my responsibility is roughly that 10 per cent of the population that is not doing well.

If we cannot convince the other 90 per cent that they have a responsibility, that they are their brother's keeper and their sister's keeper, and that some of the resources and the riches of this province need to be directed that way, then we are creating a society which is not good for everybody, which is not good for anybody, quite frankly.

Therefore, there is no quarrel between us when the member talks about the moral imperative. I believe that very deeply. It is one of the reasons that I stay with this ministry and continue to try and do a difficult job, as many of my cabinet colleagues try to do very difficult jobs.

The member for Nipissing referred to George Thomson. Let me clearly say that my understanding with George Thomson was that, after he delivered the report to us in September, he would continue to be responsible for being, if I can use the term, the front person for that report for the next four months. The agreement between us was that, by the end of December, it would no longer be his responsibility; it would be fully mine, and fully the government's. But because there were a lot of people he wanted to share his vision with, he agreed, and some of the other members of the committee agreed, that they would continue to speak on behalf of it until the end of that calendar year.

I went to the Premier and told him very clearly how deeply impressed I was by what George Thomson had done, not just by the quality of his report, but by the whole way he went about doing it. I had an opportunity to speak to all the members in the committee and they told me, on two or three different occasions, that when they started out, they did not see how they would ever be able to come up with a consensus and a report because they came from such diversified backgrounds.

They came from labour and from business; there were single parents; there were people from northern Ontario and from other major areas of the province; there were people who represented some of the services that we deliver; there were people from the medical profession and from the legal profession.

They said that their sense of what ought to be done in this province and the service that we ought to provide to people was so diversified that they just did not believe they could come together, and they all credited George Thomson with that. They said he was the one who made it

happen. He did not do all the work, but his human relations skills were such that he made it all come together.

Over the last two or three weeks, I have met with 15 or 16 provincial groups, who are giving me their sort of final reaction, and they say, without fail, that this is a report that is just so comprehensive, so well co-ordinated and so integrated. It reads in such clear language. There is no jargon, no particular jingoism from any particular perspective. That is a tribute to him as well.

I clearly said to the Premier, "If you have any openings coming up in this government in the near future, I hope you are going to look at George Thomson because he has tremendous assets and tremendous strengths to add to this government." I was delighted when I heard about the announcement. I just heard about it myself this morning. I was not even aware of the fact that it was being considered.

I know what the member for Nipissing is saying when he says that we are losing an advocate on the one hand, but I do not think so. George Thomson, as I said to one of the reporters outside, is not a man who can be bought. When he feels deeply and strongly about something, he is going to speak about it, regardless of what position he holds. As a matter of fact, I would like to think that having him within the government gives me another ally whom I can call on from time to time.

I want to go back to the comments made about deinstitutionalizing, the pressures it is putting on communities and what it is all going to amount to if we do not have those strong programs. I am very much aware of that. I have had lengthy discussions with the Ontario Association for Community Living, which used to be the Ontario Association for the Mentally Retarded. I put the same questions to them: Do we slow down? I hear what the member for Hamilton West was saying. Do we sort of slow down and not do that because of all the community pressures? They tell me no in the strongest language that I hear in this ministry. We have to keep doing this and we have to keep working at the community level at the same time.

Therefore, I want to say that that is what we are going to do. We may be forced to slow down just a bit, but I certainly have no intention at all of stopping doing that. I want to say to them that the feedback I am getting not just from the provincial associations, but from all the local associations is, "Keep working with us and we will keep

working with you." We all have to make some difficult decisions.

I would much prefer the third option, I can tell the member for Nipissing. That is the easiest way out. If we can find a way to do it, my gosh, it certainly is one that I would want to do. But we may have to look at one of the other two options as well, and really examine the range of services we are providing. One of the difficulties that most of our community agencies run into is that once they start providing a certain line of services, then the normal community pressure is, "Well, do a little more, do a little more."

Members are well aware of the rape crisis centres and their fiscal difficulties at the present time. A number of members have raised those in the House. One of the reasons for those difficulties is that they have accepted the added responsibility, quite by their own decision, of dealing with emotional disturbance caused by long-term incest. Women, in particular, who faced an incest experience 15 years or 20 years ago, are now turning to someone and saying: "Help me to deal with this. I have submerged it and suppressed it for so long and I can't do it any longer." That was never the intent of the rape crisis centres, but they have begun to take that on and they have responsibilities as well.

The same thing is happening with some of our associations for the mentally retarded. They have taken on added responsibilities. Sometimes I have to go back to them and say: "They're great and they're things I would like you to do, but within the resources that you have available and I have available, we just can't do all of those things at the present time. We have to add them on slowly and just accept the fact that we can't do them all."

A number of people made reference to the homemakers. I want to share with members that I was as distressed as a number of people who have already spoken about the length of time it took us to finally make the deficit funding decision, with the Red Cross in particular. I had met with them a good six months before that. They made it very clear to me what their problems were and the kinds of things that had to be done.

I must say that I and other ministers of the government—the Minister of Health in particular, who uses about two thirds of the homemakers in the province through her various programs—were struggling with different ways in which to resolve this because we knew that, as the Red Cross has already told us now, "We have paid that deficit."

That does not solve the problem. That just closes one small little door. The much bigger problem is still there. It was within that context of the bigger problem that we were trying to come to grips with it. We have said, though, that to try to avoid a repeat of 1988 we have already committed ourselves to pick up the deficits for 1989. Again, it is only another 12 months, but at least it is a little bit further advanced than what we did the last time.

1650

I am hoping that before this calendar year, not the fiscal year, is over we will have a much more integrated approach to the homemakers' problem, the whole question of the co-ordination of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the range of programs they are both involved in at the community level. That is where we really want to go.

The member for Mississauga South made particular mention of the attendant care program. Members will know there has been significant growth in that program. I just happened to pull out one of my notes in that area. All members may not be aware of the fact that this program only began in 1984 under the genesis of the previous government. Their sense was that it was going to be about a four-year or five-year—I will not call it a pilot program, but it was, "Let's let it grow for about that period of time and then review again where we are at and where we ought to go from there." I do not think they intended it to be a pilot.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Minister—

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: Does the House leader want me to wind down? Okay, I am going to wind down, but perhaps he will just let me finish with this one.

The sense was that it would grow by about 60 units a year and that by the end of the fourth year, we would be looking at about 250 units and we would have a pretty good fix on what works and what does not work. That happened the very first year, but from then on it has grown by numbers like 175 new clients, 416 new clients, 760 people in the outreach program, which is brand new. That is a 120 per cent increase. The budget increase from 1987 to 1988, the current fiscal year, was 28 per cent plus. We are now serving well over 1,500 people, whereas the intent when the program was originally launched was about 240 people.

The honourable member for Nipissing might remember that 1984 discussion. I certainly was not part of it, but it just goes to show the way in

which these programs can grow beyond their original intention, and we still do not have enough.

That is one that is growing and that we feel very strongly is an important program. It provides the kind of opportunity one member spoke of. I am sorry, with the number who spoke, I cannot remember who it was. He will recognize himself. I think it was the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Pouliot).

What we are doing is providing not just dollars, but a much more humane way of allowing people to make choices for themselves, to live in their own communities, particularly in the part of northwestern Ontario he represents, where not being in your own community does not mean being two or three miles down the road; it can mean being 200 or 300 miles down the road. That is very significant.

Therefore, we are truly committed to providing as much service as we possibly can to our elderly, our disabled, our young offenders, that whole range of people to whom we provide service, as close as possible to their own community. I can say we have come a long way, but we have a long way to go.

I want to end by simply repeating that I accept the moral imperative of everything this ministry stands for. I want to thank all those who have spoken for the gracious and impassioned way in which they presented their observations.

Resolution concurred in.

CONCURRENCE IN SUPPLY, OFFICE FOR DISABLED PERSONS

Mr. Allen: I understand we are under some pressure from those who wish to get into the estimates of the Ministry of Housing, so I will confine my remarks quite strictly to a few points.

In the course of writing to me in the wake of the estimates, the Minister without Portfolio responsible for disabled persons (Mr. Mancini) made the comment that the government had committed itself to addressing key issues to promote the integration of disabled persons, particularly in human rights, transportation and advocacy. While one recognizes some advances, in another sense, there is a perspective in which the record is not hugely impressive.

While the right of reasonable accommodation was accomplished, it took a couple of years of stalling on that before the ministry and the government took a decisive act and took that leap towards a reasonable accommodation clause in the Ontario Human Rights Code.

We also know that the Ontario Human Rights Commission, which of course is one of the great resources that should be available for the disabled, is underfunded and underresourced, and that disabled people feel very discouraged in accessing it. For example, the commission receives about 75,000 complaints a year; in 1987-88, 365 complaints got some cash award, 268 were offered jobs, but the vast thousands of others simply gave up along the way, defeated by the process.

The Canadian Association for Community Living has released studies recently that tell us of the problem of employment equity or inequity for the disabled. There are 1.8 million disabled people of working age living in private households. Fewer than 40 per cent of them are working and only five per cent had an annual income of more than \$30,000, while 63,000 had an annual income of less than \$10,000 a year. That is hardly a respectable figure for any of us to look at. It is shameful in fact, and we should be acting very vigorously on the employment equity front for the disabled.

The Ministry of Transportation has been notoriously slow in moving towards an accessible transportation system. Again, advances have been made, but in spite of the fact that the disabled themselves, the advisory council and another group presented a memorandum of agreement to the ministry in 1987 calling for a focus upon not just special services, but an overall plan for integration, the task force struck by the government in May 1987 and which reported not long ago, last summer I believe, did not even consider integrated access to transportation and left that entirely to one side.

There have been many lost opportunities in the course of the last couple of years with regard to making the Metro system in Toronto accessible, in spite of the fact there are persistent problems that remain in special transportation services. GO trains, stations and regional transportation systems remain inaccessible. My colleague the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breauth), along with the Durham regional council in his part of Ontario, has lodged formal complaints, both outside and inside the House, with respect to the GO system in that part of the province. I hope that when the GO system comes to Hamilton, Burlington and our end of the system, in point of fact the whole system will by that time be integrated and we will not have to go through a battle at that end to change it.

The record on advocacy: The minister will be quite familiar with the O'Sullivan report, which

has had no action. Regarding the Fram committee set up by the Attorney General (Mr. Scott), again, nothing has come of that whole process, in spite of the fact that there are roughly a million vulnerable adults out there who O'Sullivan said lack co-ordinated advocacy services and that this was a profound injustice.

Other problems still persist around attendant care. I have raised questions around several cases in that regard. I will not repeat them at the moment, but I think the minister and the related ministries are aware of them.

Assistive devices: again, an area afflicted by bureaucratic problems and also by the fact that the individuals concerned still need to put 25 per cent up front and it is not always easily forthcoming from another institution or agency.

Sheltered workshop workers still do not earn the minimum wage. Special services at home for parents who have children who are developmentally handicapped or disabled, and who get \$27 a day and save the government either \$120 a day in group homes or \$250 a day in chronic care facilities, none the less have had their funding or at least their service level cut back by 15 to 25 per cent in a number of areas around the province.

It is clear, as I conclude, that financing of programs for the disabled is in some instances irrational, the administration of programs is often bureaucratic and the ends served are not necessarily those of the disabled. The question of integration of the disabled is moving at a snail's pace, notwithstanding the minister's and the government's fine rhetoric, and, I would want to add, the fact that the minister himself I think is deeply committed to his office and to the people it tries to serve.

1700

Mrs. Marland: It is unfortunate we are now at the point in the afternoon's proceedings where we are not going to have a great deal of time to spend on concurrence in the estimates of the Office for Disabled Persons. In terms of English translation, that really means looking at where the money is being spent by this ministry in dealing with people with disabilities in Toronto.

In fact, the whole thing is a little bit of a—farce is probably not the right word, but since we are in a hurry I am not going to spend time plucking words out of the air. Since it is not an on-line ministry, it would almost have been more appropriate to have dealt with the concerns for the disabled through the concurrence in the estimates of the previous ministry, the Ministry of Community and Social Services, since it is Community and Social Services that delivers the

programs for the disabled. However, we do have a Minister without Portfolio responsible for disabled persons.

We recognize that this ministry is purely an advisory mode for addressing the needs and problems of the disabled people in Ontario today. I wish we had an on-line ministry for the disabled. I wish this minister, with his sincerity for programs for people with disabilities, had more power and more clout, other than in a philosophical sense, to recommend programs. In reality, if they are not an on-line ministry, they do do not actually have a budget where they can establish programs, expand programs, and in a very real way, a very tangible way, recognize the needs of the disabled community of Ontario today.

When we look at some of the areas we have been trying to address in the past year, we certainly have, almost on bended knee, begged this minister to address at least one area that is very important to the disabled community, and that is to deem the transportation systems for the disabled in this province an essential service.

We have experienced strikes in two large urban centres with disabled transportation in the past 12 months, at which times those people who depend on those services were actually held hostage in their homes, because there is no alternative if you are disabled and you need the specialized transportation of programs like Wheel-Trans in Metro, Transhelp in Peel and the program in Hamilton, of which I cannot remember the name at the moment.

Mr. Allen: DARTS.

Mrs. Marland: DARTS, the Disabled and Aged Regional Transit System. Those are all specialized transportation systems that get the disabled out of their homes to work, to shop, to doctors' appointments, to hospital treatments and to physiotherapy treatments at other locations. They are not luxury programs; they are necessities. They are indeed an essential service and it is about time this Liberal government recognized they are an essential service and deemed them an essential service, so that when there are labour disputes in the negotiation of salaries and other working conditions, the people are not held as pawns in those negotiations.

We ask again, on behalf of the Progressive Conservative Party, that this minister use all the influence he can to convince Liberal cabinet members that specialized transportation for the disabled in Ontario be deemed an essential service.

When we talk about reports, more reports and more reports and inaction on these reports, we have to ask once more where the interministerial report on transportation has gone. Where is it? It was started in 1986. We are talking about a three-year term, waiting to find out what fact is in reality going to be done in real terms for transportation for the disabled in communities other than those fortunate ones that have some form of specialized program.

I asked the previous minister this afternoon about attendant care because attendant care is another program that is specially focused on the disabled. It is another program we have been waiting for this Liberal government to take some positive, realistic action on.

The marvellous report that was researched, developed and presented by the Ontario Advisory Council for Disabled Persons—Freedom to Move Is Life Itself—is a report for which we are still waiting for action on the recommendations contained in it.

I could go on at length about other areas of concern, but I am very respectful of the agreement within this House that we would all be brief at this point. My brevity, however, is no indication of the amount of concern I have for the lack of programs for people who have special needs. As I said earlier, as far as I am concerned, every one of us can defend the priority of funding for these people. When we talk about programs for assistive devices, if people need assistive devices, then why is it difficult for them to afford them? Why are these programs not addressing their needs?

When we look at programs for the developmentally disabled, whether they are residential, educational or home assistance programs, whatever they are, I want to tell members that when I look at the waiting lists for community living in Mississauga, it is heartbreaking not only to see the large and ever-increasing numbers on those lists, but the gravity of the conditions and difficulties under which those people and their families function on a daily basis, waiting for a permanent respite alternative.

I will conclude my comments, but I cannot conclude my concern for the Liberal government's grandiose promises, as I say once more, in an election run to be all things to all people, promising to touch everyone in every corner of this province. It sounded wonderful. It sounded as though they really were sincere and were going to meet the needs of the people of this province. Unfortunately, the disabled communi-

ty is just one more community that is faced in reality with a long list of broken promises.

Mr. Laughren: I will be very brief. I just want to say to the minister that I hope when he is perusing the applications for funding that will come to him from time to time, he will give serious consideration to Epilepsy Ontario, Sudbury chapter. I am a member of the board, I should add, in case someone thinks there is a conflict of interest here. I hope the minister will seriously consider its application to fund a provincial workshop in Sudbury later on this year, an education workshop for all of Ontario. Therein lies a great need; namely, to do a lot of education work in the whole field of epilepsy and the misunderstanding surrounding this disorder.

1710

Hon. Mr. Mancini: I want to thank the members of the House who participated in this debate. I know they were a little constrained because of the all-party agreement, but I would not want the impression left that we have not already spent a great deal of time discussing important matters which affect persons with disabilities.

I have been minister now for less than 16 months, and in the course of these 16 months the Office for Disabled Persons has gone through the estimates procedure twice already, meaning that the office has been thoroughly scrutinized by a committee of the Legislature and my honourable colleagues across the floor, my two honourable critics, have had a fair amount of time in putting forward some of the concerns that they have in both estimates and asking a great number of questions. It is not fair to leave the impression that because we are a little bit pressed today, we did not have time on another occasion to deal in depth with many of the concerns that all members of this House have.

I should say that one of my colleague's opposite brought up the issue of whether the Office for Disabled Persons should be an on-line ministry or whether it should remain in its advocacy role. Shortly after I became minister, I had that same question myself and thought deeply about it. As a matter of fact, I also met at that time with my counterpart in Quebec, and read a great deal before I met with him, and found his office at that time to be a mixture of an on-line ministry and an advocacy ministry.

After having concluded a morning of meetings with my counterpart in Quebec, I came away feeling that they wanted to be more like us and that it would be inappropriate for the Office for Disabled Persons, which should have its main

function, its main role, as one of advocacy, to in fact want to try to spread bureaucratic wings and try to deliver programs which might be better delivered by ministries which are already delivering the services.

I should point out that we do in fact deliver two small programs which are very important to the community. Our access fund, which many members in this House already know about because many of their community churches and legion halls and other community buildings have received grants in order to make their buildings more accessible, is a very important, very popular program. We spend about \$3 million to \$5 million a year and hope to conclude that program some time next year and see what happens in the future.

Our Homelink program has been very successful, whereby in five cities we have established a bureau that is run by consumers, funded by the Office for Disabled Persons, where they match up persons with disabilities and accessible apartments.

The Barrier-Free Design Centre is a very important organization which we help fund. They train architects in barrier-free design and do special work with people from the general public, institutions and also the private sector.

In the Easter Seal program that we concluded only a few months ago, I was able to announce the last portion of a very substantial grant of \$1.1 million so that 88 more families could make their homes accessible for their disabled children—a very important program.

The assistive devices program was mentioned. I should say that the assistive devices program bloomed under the leadership of this government. I remember, as a member of the opposition, asking why the assistive devices program was so limited back around 1984-85; \$6 million to \$8 million was in fact made available through the assistive devices program. Now we are up to \$80-some million. Just by recognizing the huge difference in those two figures, one can tell the number of people we are assisting as compared to before.

My advisory council was mentioned. I have to say that I am not afraid to be surrounded by strong people; the stronger the better. My advisory council is made up of some of the strongest people I have met on issues that affect persons with disabilities.

It was also mentioned that we should do something to change attitudes. I want to remind my colleagues across the floor that the Office for Disabled Persons last spring initiated for the first

time a TV campaign to change attitudes. We won a gold medal in Chicago for the commercials and in Hollywood we also won the premier prize, so I think our office has done a great deal to change attitudes. Our office has been in the forefront on all issues that affect disabled persons.

One honourable member mentioned that it took a long time to pass the three amendments to the Ontario Human Rights Code. I do not say it did not take a long time, but I should point out that in less than six months after I was sworn in as minister, and the same amount of time for my colleague the minister responsible for the Ontario Human Rights Commission (Mr. Phillips), we had the amendments changed and proclaimed.

In conclusion, I want to sincerely thank my critics opposite, who have played a very major role both in the estimates and ongoing over the last 16 months in helping me in my role. I want to thank the members of the standing committee on social development and all who are interested in the vital questions that affect persons with disabilities.

Resolution concurred in.

CONCURRENCE IN SUPPLY

Resolutions for supply for the following offices were concurred in by the House:

Office for Senior Citizens' Affairs;
Office of the Chief Election Officer.

CONCURRENCE IN SUPPLY, OFFICE OF THE ASSEMBLY

Mr. Harris: Mr. Speaker, we have a few comments we would like to put on the record. In view of that, I move adjournment of the debate.

On motion by Mr. Harris, the debate was adjourned.

CONCURRENCE IN SUPPLY

Resolution for supply for the following office was concurred in by the House:

Office of the Provincial Auditor.

1720

CONCURRENCE IN SUPPLY, OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN

Mr. Philip: I just want to take one minute. I think it would be remiss on the part of the House if we did not use this opportunity to pay tribute to Dr. Dan Hill. This will be the last concurrence in supply with him as Ombudsman.

I think Dr. Hill, as he goes into retirement, can do so with the confidence that the members of the all-party standing committee on the Ombudsman

have had great confidence in him as Ombudsman, that he has become highly respected throughout the world as one of the world's leading ombudsmen and that his office, under his direction, is one to which other jurisdictions look for leadership.

A new Ombudsman will soon be appointed, and one would hope that, as in other jurisdictions, the standing committee on the Ombudsman will be consulted as to the successor for this Ombudsman.

We are told that new legislation affecting the Office of the Ombudsman will soon be introduced. We have waited for it for a number of years. One would hope that the rumours which seem to be circulating that this legislation may restrict the existing powers of the Ombudsman are only rumours and that the government will not in any way move towards restricting the present jurisdiction of the Ombudsman but rather, as the committee is now looking at extending jurisdiction, will pay close attention to the report that will be brought in by our committee on the possibility of giving the Ombudsman still further authority.

I am sure I speak for all members when I say that we wish Dr. Hill a very active retirement. I know that simply because he will no longer be Ombudsman of Ontario it will not be his last function in serving the public of Ontario.

Mr. Pollock: I want to join my colleague the member for Etobicoke-Rexdale (Mr. Philip) in putting on the record that our party wishes Dr. Hill all the best in his retirement and compliments him on his years of service to the Ontario government as Ombudsman for the province. I think it was roughly five years ago when the Honourable Bill Davis appointed Dr. Hill to this office. He had high expectations, and I am sure Mr. Davis and this Legislature have not been disappointed in the work Dr. Hill has accomplished.

I join my colleague in paying tribute to Dr. Hill and wish him all the best in his retirement.

Miss Nicholas: As chairman of the standing committee on the Ombudsman, I join my colleagues in the House in bidding farewell to Dr. Hill, who has been the Ombudsman for the last five years, as has been mentioned. I have had the honour of serving as chairman of the committee for almost a year and a half now, and I can say that I think our work in the last 16 months has been particularly productive. A number of Dr. Hill's recommendations to the committee have been innovative, have been socially con-

scious, and I think the committee has responded in a very positive way to his recommendations.

We have enjoyed working with him. It has been a very smooth couple of years with Dr. Hill, and I think we will miss him. We join in congratulating him on his five years and wishing him well in his retirement. I think he will tell us all that at 65 he is looking forward to going on to other things. I think Ontario will miss him and I look forward, as my colleagues do, to the appointment of a new Ombudsman and to working with him or her in an equally enjoyable capacity as we have with Dr. Hill.

I thank my colleagues in the House for their contributions to the committee and for helping me make our work with Dr. Hill so enjoyable and so profitable. We thank him and I hope our estimates are approved.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. M. C. Ray): I would like to assure the House that the esteemed Ombudsman, Daniel Hill, will receive a copy of these remarks.

Resolution concurred in.

House in committee of supply.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF HOUSING (continued)

Vote 1901, ministry administration program, item 1, main office:

Hon. Ms. Hošek: Excuse me, Madam Chairman, I would like to have two staff members join me on the floor.

Mr. Philip: In January of last year I raised with the minister the issue of the number of rental buildings that were registered as condominiums and are now simply being turned into condominiums.

I pointed out to the minister that in my own riding approximately 49 per cent of the rental stock was in fact registered as condominiums and that some people had moved into those rental buildings as early as 11 years ago. In the case of a number of them, they were built with the financial assistance of the federal government and probably also some funding, indirectly or directly, through the provincial government. Now, after 10 or 11 years, tenants in those buildings who felt that they were in a rental building are facing the prospect of eviction, as those units are being sold off as condominiums.

When I first raised the issue, the minister said that the Rental Housing Protection Act was under review, that she was going to study the whole issue and that she was concerned about those

tenants. She has now introduced her bill; it does not cover those tenants.

I ask the minister what excuse she has for breaking her promise to those tenants.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The member opposite will know that tenants in registered condominiums are protected under the Landlord and Tenant Act from illegal eviction. We have taken very seriously the question that the member raised last January. During the time that we were reviewing the Rental Housing Protection Act and planning for the new act, we took this issue very seriously.

We came to the conclusion that the law in this province treats registered condominiums in the same way it does free-standing houses in any neighbourhood, that the right to rent out one's house for a short period of time and then move back into it is given to people who own free-standing homes and that we should have exactly the same attitude towards condominium apartments: if a home owner chooses to move back into the home that he owns, he should be allowed to do so.

Mr. Philip: In addition to breaking her promise that she would deal with the matter last year, does the minister not understand that there is a great difference between someone's moving into a building in which all of the units are rented out—the person sees that as a rental building; those people moved into what amounted to rental buildings 10 or 11 years ago and have lived in rental buildings for 10 or 11 years—and someone's moving into an existing condominium and renting a unit; or indeed renting a house on a street where the person will know that when the owner comes back from British Columbia, where he or she may have gone on business for a couple of years, he is going to have to forfeit his accommodation? He also knows that if he rents a house and the unit is sold, he will have to forfeit his accommodation.

Does the minister not understand that there is a difference between that and moving into a building that is entirely a rental building and then suddenly facing eviction, the way so many people do? I am told as many as 80,000, are now facing eviction in Ontario as a result of buildings that were constructed after January 1, 1975, of which a majority are registered as condominiums.

1730

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I am aware of the situation that the member opposite is describing. Let me tell him that we did consider the ramifications here, but we decided that in this case it would not

be appropriate to change this particular law in this way.

The Rental Housing Protection Act, in the way that we have proposed it, offers much greater protection to tenants in general than ever before, greater and tougher protections for the people in the province who live in rental accommodation, including protection from harassment, from changes in the stock of the buildings that are rental buildings and registered as rental buildings. I believe that the legislation that has been proposed is very concerned with protecting tenants and making sure that the rental stock in the province remains rental stock.

I believe the suggestions we have put forward in this new bill are good ones, but I invite the member opposite to participate actively, as I know he will, in the debate on the new legislation in committee and in all the work that is going to be done to discuss that legislation as it comes forward.

Mr. Philip: The minister says she is interested in protecting the rental stock. Can she tell us whether she knows what percentage of the rental stock of buildings built after January 1, 1975, is in fact registered as condominiums?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I cannot give the specific number but I know, and the member opposite knows, that a significant number of the buildings that have been built, in particular since 1981, have in fact been registered as condominiums. I do not think that is as true for the post-1975 group.

A lot of condominiums have indeed been built in the period since 1981. We believe that is a very good response to some of the housing needs in the marketplace right now and the needs of people in the province. I think the legislation we are proposing under the Rental Housing Protection Act is very much concerned with the protection of tenants against illegal conversions, demolitions or renovations. It protects tenants against illegal eviction, including eviction under section 107 of the Landlord and Tenant Act above once in every three years, which is an increased protection for all tenants living in rental stock and also in the buildings that are registered under condominiums.

I believe the proposals we have made are good ones, and I invite the member opposite to make the case that he wishes to make at the time we debate this new legislation in committee and beyond.

Mr. Philip: Would the minister agree that as high as 80 per cent—that is the figure that is being thrown around by various tenant groups in their

research—of the rental housing stock built since—she says 1981; I have seen the figure 1975—but most of the new buildings that are in fact rental buildings fall under the category of registered condominiums, that those buildings can be sold off a unit at a time and that the tenants can be evicted unless they purchase that unit or unless that unit is purchased by an investor?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I will be happy to give the member opposite the exact numbers that he asks for as soon as I can, but I do agree with him that significant numbers of apartments that have been built since 1981 are indeed condominiums and have been registered that way. That is indeed true. The pattern of habitation in those buildings is extremely varied.

Mr. Philip: What would the minister advise the people whom I met with only last night, where they are being told that either they buy the rental unit or they will face eviction? We have less than 0.5 per cent vacancy in the area. What does she tell them?

She promised in January 1988 that she was going to protect them. Now, do I gather correctly that she is saying there is absolutely nothing she is going to do to protect those tenants who can be evicted as their units are sold from under them?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: Tenants in registered condominiums are protected from illegal eviction under the Landlord and Tenant Act, and one of the new provisions in the proposed revision to the Rental Housing Protection Act does not allow people to be evicted on the basis of someone moving in to his or her own apartment, because it is their own unit, above once every three years. I think those protections are significant, but I will admit to the member that indeed there are going to be some changes in some of the accommodation.

It is extremely important that there continue to be some reasonable building in the condominium sector. I believe that since, in law, we treat condominium apartments as ownership in the same way that we treat a free-standing house as ownership, and a person is allowed to rent out a property that he or she owns and is then allowed to move into that property that he or she owns when they choose to do so, I believe it is appropriate for apartments that are condominiums to be treated in the same way.

Mr. Philip: Can the minister tell us then, if she has that position now, why did she have a completely different position in January of last year? Why did she promise these people and build up their expectations that she was going to protect them? She says there are protections. She

knows very well that there are no protections. As those units are sold off, if an individual purchaser intends to use that for his or her own use, there is no protection for that person.

Indeed, the courts have even found that if they sign an affidavit and give the power of agency to the original landlord, he can go to court and get an eviction simply on the promise that the person he is selling it to can use it. That has happened in court. So the people who are feeding the minister the answers should not nod their heads no, because it has happened.

The fact is that a majority of the people who are living in rental buildings, or close to a majority—49 per cent in my riding—can be evicted. Is that not true? They are being evicted. Why did the minister break her promise to them? Why was it that a year ago she told them she was going to protect them and now she says she is not?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I told the member opposite that I would take this matter very seriously and I have. We have come to a conclusion, and I invite him to make his case, which I know he will, at the time at which this bill goes to committee. By all means, he should make the case he is making as strongly and forcefully as he chooses to. I can tell him that the conclusion we have come to at this point is the one I have told him and have answered a number of questions about. If he has further concerns, as he clearly does, I invite him to make those concerns very much apparent at the time this bill goes to committee.

Mr. Philip: I wonder if I can raise another issue now that the minister has just said again that she is going to break the promise she made to those people a year ago. I wonder if she can tell us why she has not answered the correspondence from the Toronto Humane Society which was sent to both her and the Attorney General (Mr. Scott).

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I would ask the member opposite to refresh my memory on what the topic of that correspondence was.

Mr. Philip: I raised the issue several times in the House. I thought the minister, if she was not paying attention, would at least have been advised that I had raised the issue. It concerns the Landlord and Tenant Act. There are tenants who are being evicted in this province right now because they happen to have signed a lease that has a no-pet clause in it. Landlords can change their minds or a building can be sold. The tenant is faced with a lease that has a no-pet clause in it.

I was talking to a woman just yesterday who has received a notice of eviction for “violating” a

lease by having a cat. The cat was in the apartment for several years. No one knew about it and nobody complained about it. She acted as a responsible pet owner. Now she is facing an eviction, even though she is not violating any of the clauses that one would expect to be reasonable grounds for eviction. She is not destroying property and she is not disturbing the peace and quiet of others. The cat is not noisy. It is an old cat and sleeps most of the time. It is certainly not creating any damage to the property. In fact, nobody knew about it until the superintendent happened to come in to do a repair and found the cat there.

Does the minister not agree that under the present lease agreements, in light of the recent court case, that one could be evicted if one happened to go out and get a goldfish and had a no-pet clause in the lease?

1740

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I do of course remember this issue now that the member has reminded me of it, but I should tell him that responsibility for how the Landlord and Tenant Act is structured is vested in the Attorney General, who will be working on this matter. I understand the concerns of people who are living in rented apartments and would like to have pets, I certainly understand why they might want to do that, but I think this entire question is going to have to be dealt with in terms of the Landlord and Tenant Act, and the person who will be doing that will be the Attorney General.

Mr. Philip: When we raised the issue with the Attorney General he took the rather callous attitude that people could either sign leases or not sign leases and they could choose to have pets or not to have pets. As the Minister of Housing, a minister one would think might have some social conscience, judging her past record before she got into politics, does she not have some concern that senior citizens, disabled people and children whose parents may have purchased a cat for the children for psychological or other reasons—and there are doctors who will substantiate the value of pets for children and the value of pets for seniors, the disabled and people who are shut in—are being evicted and that she has created two classes of citizens in this province?

If you happen to be economically disadvantaged enough to qualify for geared-to-income subsidized housing and you live in the Metropolitan Toronto Housing Authority or the Metropolitan Toronto Housing Co. in the city, either of them, you can have a pet as long as the pet does not cause a problem to others. If you happen to be

rich enough to be able to afford a condominium and you have checked the declaration and there is nothing contrary to it in the declaration, you can have a pet. If you own your own home, there is nothing that prevents you from having a pet. But those working people who do not fall into the category of requiring government assistance, but at the same time are not affluent or, for whatever reason, are not in a position to own their own property get discriminated against by a landlord who, for arbitrary reasons, can simply prevent them from having a parakeet, a parrot, a cat or any other animal, no matter how inoffensive that animal might be to the peaceful enjoyment of other tenants or to the upkeep of the property.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I am very sympathetic to the needs of people of whatever age for the companionship of pets. I understand why the member opposite is concerned about it, because it is clear that for many people it is a very beneficial part of their lives. However, this question really is going to be handled by the Attorney General who says, as I recall, that the needs of people for the companionship of pets have to be balanced against the concerns of other people living in the same building who may have allergies and so forth.

I can tell the member that in the Ontario Housing Corp. housing which we control, where we are the landlord, it is indeed possible for people to own pets if they obtain the permission of some of the supervisors in the area. It is very much a matter of working it out with the people running the building and striking the balance between the need for a pet and the needs of other people who live in the building. In so far as the government of Ontario is a landlord, and we do indeed have many tenants, we take this issue seriously, but I believe that this is not as simple a matter as the member would have us make out. The Attorney General is indeed responsible for this area and I invite him to talk with the Attorney General about it further.

Mr. Philip: With respect, the Minister of Housing is responsible for guiding, looking at, generally supervising research of and setting policy for housing. If under the Attorney General we have a dumb law or permit an act that does not exclude arbitrary actions on the part of the landlord, it affects housing policy. I am wondering why the minister can somehow come to the unusual conclusion that people may have allergies in public enterprise buildings, but do not have them in her type of housing, in the housing she is responsible for. That is an absurd kind of conclusion.

What we have now is a majority of the corporate landlords passing laws that say you may not have pets. Does the minister not understand that some 10,000 pets a year are being euthanized, according to the humane societies in Ontario? Does the minister not know what that costs the taxpayers, directly in costs by the humane societies and the pounds that are forced to euthanize those animals but also in the psychological wellbeing and stress levels that are created by people being forced to choose between a roof over their heads and a pet that they have had for so many years?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I do not think I came to the conclusion, absurd though it might be, that the member opposite suggested I came to. When we work in the Ontario Housing Corp., the decisions about pet ownership are responsive to some guidelines that are set by the local managers. The concerns about allergies and people in the contiguous units are, indeed, taken into account.

I should tell the member that this issue relates to the relationship between landlords and tenants, which is a legal matter and which is sometimes brought to the courts. The responsibility rests with the Attorney General. My experience with him is that he is indeed very sympathetic to the kinds of issues that the member has raised, and I know the Attorney General is considering it.

I invite the member, if he continues to be concerned about this matter, to raise this issue with the Attorney General in the House or elsewhere.

Mr. Philip: The Attorney General is so sympathetic that he has not answered his mail from an organization that has its base in his own riding and has written to him on two occasions. The Minister of Housing has not answered her mail from that same organization. Would she at least read her mail? Would she answer the organization? I am sure that at election time, when she is looking for campaign funds, she answers her mail. Maybe it would be a good idea to answer it now.

Ms. Bryden: Last week, when I raised the question for the minister of whether some assistance could be given to a boarding house operator who is providing housing for 12 singles of modest income in two rented houses in my area, she replied in her comments the next day that since rooming houses and boarding houses were now eligible for the low-rise rehabilitation program, the boarding house operator would be able to get assistance for putting in new fire doors.

The fire marshal and the building code have raised the requirements for fire doors, and the order the operator received was for installation of eight doors at approximately \$500 each. Obviously, a rooming house operator cannot raise her rents for that number of people to cover a \$4,000 bill.

It seems to me that if we are going to have higher standards, as we probably should on fire doors, there should be an assistance program which operators of rooming houses could get some assistance from. At the moment, the program applies only to owners of the buildings. In the case where an operator of a rooming and boarding house rents, there is no assistance for her at all.

We do know that there is a great and growing shortage of rooming and boarding houses in the city of Toronto and that there is no incentive for the landlord to upgrade the houses that he is able to rent right now to anybody because of the great shortage. The assistance in the present program, if it applies only to owners, will not keep any of those rooming houses which are operating in rented houses open, and therefore the shortage will greatly increase.

It seems to me that the minister must work out a new program if she is interested in preserving rooming and boarding houses for the singles in Toronto, certainly, and probably in many other communities.

That is really why I raised the point. I wanted her to consider extending the low-rise rehabilitation program to licensed operators of rooming and boarding houses who could agree to certain terms as to how they would maintain the house in operation for a certain number of years, and if they did not, they would have to refund some of the money. It just will not happen that these rooming houses will stay in business if they have to find the \$4,000 themselves.

1750

That is why it seems to me that when the minister can extend the program to one group, she should be able to extend it to another group and she should be able to work out conditions that would make it so that the operators are responsible for seeing that the money is spent properly and that, if there is a share, it is ultimately paid over a period. The present requirement facing this woman is so drastic that she will not be able to continue operating and we will have lost 12 valuable housing units.

We need a new program for the operators of rooming and boarding houses, and I think that should be as high on the minister's list as her

other new programs for housing the homeless and housing people who cannot find affordable housing. I appeal to her to consider a new program.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The low-rise rehabilitation program has indeed been enhanced recently to extend eligibility for rooming houses. Up to \$5,000 per bed unit is available, which is much more than the amount of money that the member for Beaches-Woodbine has talked about. If my multiplication is correct, if it is eight doors for \$500 each, we are talking about \$4,000. That means there is plenty of money in the low-rise rehabilitation program to pay for this.

There is no requirement on the owner to contribute in the form of equity. This money would come out of the low-rise rehabilitation program directly, and the way the program is designed, any of the rehabilitation that is done as a result of the money that the provincial government contributes cannot be passed through to the tenants in the form of rent, so there would be no rent increase to the people involved because the resources that were used were from the province.

However, the assistance is in the form of a mortgage. In other words, there is a long-term mortgage associated with this particular way of giving assistance and therefore it is the owner who must apply. The owner would be asked to apply for this assistance and would not be expected to spend any money. There would be no pass-through of costs to the tenants who already live in the building. I believe that the low-rise rehabilitation program, in its current extension to rooming and boarding houses, in fact responds to the concerns that the member has raised.

Let me say two more things about rooming and boarding houses, because I too take the provision of such housing very seriously. This government extended protection to roomers, boarders and lodgers under the Landlord and Tenant Act, which I think is a very significant improvement.

In our announcement of building massively more provincial units of housing, one of the options that is available under that program is for the purchase of homes or buildings across the province which can be then turned by nonprofit organizations into boarding or rooming houses in order to increase the supply of such stock, which is extremely appropriate housing for a segment of our population which has been much disadvantaged by the loss of that kind of housing stock in the last number of years.

I certainly take the concern about this form of housing very seriously, as I hope the member

will understand, and I believe that the low-rise rehabilitation program, as it has now been extended, meets the concerns that the member has raised. But because the program is delivered through a mortgage, the owner must agree to do this, because it is his or her property.

Ms. Bryden: That does not solve the problem, because the owner does not want to participate. He can rent the house to anybody, and if the woman is forced to move out, then he will rent it to whomever he chooses or he will sell it and possibly make a big capital gain on it right now, so there is no incentive for him to participate.

Also, is it not true that the owner or the person receiving the grant has to put up a portion of the expenditure? I understand that is true. That decreases the incentive for the owner to apply for a loan, because he will not only have to take out a new mortgage, but he will also probably have to pay a portion of the cost.

We do need a program that will help operators of boarding houses when the landlord is not willing to participate.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I can only reiterate to the member for Beaches-Woodbine that under this low-rise rehabilitation program the owner is not required to spend any money, but it is his property and he has to agree to let this happen to the property. I cannot imagine going any further than we have already gone in trying to meet this concern.

I understand the concern about the loss of 12 units and I share it, but I believe in what I have outlined in my previous answers. I have indicated that we cannot go any further than this and this is pretty far. We are talking about the money involved to make this happen. There is no cost passed through to the people who are going to be tenants or who are going to remain tenants in the building. The owner is not required to put up any of his own money. All the owner is required to do is to agree to let this happen. It seems to me that this is about as far as one could possibly go in meeting the needs that the member has identified.

Ms. Bryden: If I may, I will send the details to the minister and perhaps we will see if this can be worked out under this legislation. If it cannot, I hope she will look at possible extensions.

Mr. Harris: I did not realize there are only a few minutes left. Perhaps I can put a number of questions into the record and the minister may, if she has time—some time in the next year or so—be able to get back to me.

A number of the questions concern the amount of time and money that the Ministry of Housing is

committing to communications and to promotional activities. It seems to me that the ministry is spending an extremely high amount relative to her budget in promoting the fine work the ministry is doing, rather than actually doing the work; trying to convince tenants that the ministry is looking out for their interests, as opposed to looking out for their interests; trying to convince landlords that the ministry is also giving a fair consideration to their interests, rather than giving a fair consideration to their interests; convincing municipalities that the ministry is listening to them, rather than listening to them when they are preparing land use policies, and convincing municipalities and school boards that lot levies, for example, are the best way to finance new school construction, etc.

Given that concern, I have a number of questions that I think are pertinent. One is: Could the minister explain why administration costs were \$2 million over budget in 1987-88? Since the Liberal government took office in 1985, Ministry of Housing staffing has increased from 774 to 1,347. Could the minister justify the 57 per cent increase in the staff complement, aside from the one who we found out earlier this week is not doing anything having to do with Housing but, in fact, is engaged in an important government priority that may be of interest to Management Board or the Ministry of Health? Indeed that person appears to be engaged rather full-time on Smart card technology.

How many staff worked in the minister's office in 1988? What was the total remuneration cost for the minister's staff? How many staff were employed by the ministry on a contract basis in 1987-88? How many were there in 1988-89? How many of those contract staff were for communications? Were contract employees included in the ministry's staffing figures? Maybe she could explain as well where they show up in the estimates. How much did the ministry spend on advertising in 1987-88? How much did the ministry spend on advertising in 1988-89?

I am interested in knowing the salary and administrative costs for the ministry's public education program and where the public education program fits in the ministry's organizational chart. I am very interested, of course, in whether the minister has undertaken a study of the impact of the lot levy proposal on the price of new homes in Ontario. If not, why not? Would the minister

commit herself to conducting such a study and releasing those results to the Legislature?

I am interested in knowing how much the ministry paid ARA Consultants for its land speculation report, how many consultants' reports the ministry commissioned in 1987-88 and in 1988-89, what the names of the consultants awarded these contracts are and what the total costs of each of those reports were.

I see I am very close to the time. I have another 100 or so questions, but I am hoping I may have some vehicle, perhaps at concurrence time, to get on the record.

The Deputy Chairman: In view of the hour, have we reached that point where we can deal with the votes on the estimates for the Ministry of Housing?

Votes 1901 to 1904, inclusive, agreed to.

The Deputy Chairman: I am now advised that there are supplementary estimates. Shall vote 1905 carry?

Vote 1905 agreed to.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Conway, the committee of supply reported certain resolutions.

Mr. Speaker: The government House leader may have some information.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, you appear to be in a particularly ebullient mood this afternoon, so in that spirit I offer the following. I would like to indicate the business of the House for the coming week.

On Monday, February 27, Tuesday, February 28, and Wednesday, March 1, we will deal with the third readings of Bills 122 and 175. We will also deal with the second readings of Bills 170, 119, 151 and 152. Any votes arising out of the above will be stacked to Wednesday at 5:45 p.m.

On Thursday, March 2, in the morning, we will consider the second readings of Bill 194 and the important Bills 212 and 213, followed by the adjourned debate on the process for the restoration of this Parliament Building. In the afternoon of Thursday, we will deal with the third readings of any bills on Orders and Notices, concurrences of estimates, the budget debate, the supply bill and, finally, royal assent by His Honour the Lieutenant Governor.

The House adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

- Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breagh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)
Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health (Orillia L)
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)
Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)
 Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC)
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)
Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)
Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A., Speaker (Perth L)
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)
Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L)
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)
Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)
Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)
 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)
Grandmaitre, Hon. Bernard C., Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)
 Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)
 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)
Hošek, Hon. Chaviva, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)
 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)
 Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L)
Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G., Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L)
 Kormos, Peter (Welland-Thorold NDP)
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)
Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)
 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)
 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)
 Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)
 MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)
 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)
Mancini, Hon. Remo, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)
 Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)
 Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP)
 Matrundola, Gino (Willowdale L)
 McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)
 McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)
 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)
 McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)
 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)
McLeod, Hon. Lyn, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)
 Miclash, Frank (Kenora L)

Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)
Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)
Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)
Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)
Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)
Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier,
Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Eco-
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(Brant-Haldimand L)
Oddie Munro, Hon. Lily, Minister of Culture
and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)
Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)
O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and
Recreation (Quinte L)
O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)
Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)
Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government
Services (Ottawa Centre L)
Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)
Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and Presi-
dent of the Council and Minister of Inter-
governmental Affairs (London Centre L)
Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)
Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship
(Scarborough-Agincourt L)
Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of
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Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)
Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)
Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)
Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)
Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)
Rae, Bob (York South NDP)
Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional
Services (Timiskaming L)
Ray, Michael C., Deputy Chairman of the
Committees of the Whole House (Windsor-
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Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)
Reycraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)

Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and
Food (Huron L)
Roberts, Marietta L. D. (Elgin L)
Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)
Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)
Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General
(St. George-St. David L)
Smith, David W. (Lambton L)
Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General
(London South L)
Sola, John (Mississauga East L)
Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour
(York Centre L)
South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)
Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)
Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)
Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)
Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community
and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)
Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)
Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glen-
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Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of
Education (Wentworth North L)
Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)
Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio
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Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)
Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy
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Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and
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*The alphabetical list of members appears in
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No. 153

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 34th Parliament
Monday, February 27, 1989

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday, February 27, 1989

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS

Mr. Farnan: All members of this Legislative Assembly should be aware of the insensitive manner in which the Ministry of Correctional Services is implementing its policy of salary compression and restructuring of institutional staffing patterns. The decision to extend the area of search beyond the institutions, where present staff have already demonstrated a willingness and ability to handle the responsibility of the post advertised, is a policy that is bound to undermine staff morale among correctional officers.

The January 10, 1989, guidelines to regional directors contained in a memorandum from the assistant deputy minister, operations division, suggested that regional directors should demonstrate some sensitivity to those individuals who have been reclassified to a lower position.

There is certainly some concern among correctional officers that in demonstrating this sensitivity, attention be paid to the area of pensions. For example, an officer demoted to a lower level who has contributed to the pension fund for 15 to 20 years at a higher level must be entitled to a refund of overpayment or the option of continuing to contribute to the pension fund at a higher level and his pension evaluated accordingly.

The correctional officers do not want platitudes. They want and deserve justice.

SIMCOE DAY

Mr. McLean: My statement is directed to the government House leader and concerns my private member's Bill 72 respecting Simcoe Day. The purpose of this bill, which received second reading last year, is to name the third Monday in February Simcoe Day in honour of John Graves Simcoe.

Mr. Simcoe was appointed the first Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada on September 12, 1791. He convened the first Legislative Assembly and he established the capital of this province at York, which is now Toronto.

I realize that if the government were to act on this bill now, it would be too late to celebrate this one-day holiday this year, but we could give it third reading and royal assent so that the third Monday in February 1990 could be designated as Simcoe Day.

We all have experienced or are experiencing the February blahs. That we must confront each year, and I believe a one-day holiday is called for. Webster's dictionary defines the blahs as "a feeling of boredom, discomfort, or general dissatisfaction."

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Well, we're not feeling that way.

Mr. McLean: Come to think of it, Webster's definition of the blahs could easily apply to this government. The people of Ontario are experiencing a feeling of boredom with this government, they are having discomfort with this government and they are certainly dissatisfied with this government. The Deputy Premier (Mr. R. F. Nixon) could probably agree with me on that in one of his calmer times.

DRUG ABUSE

Mr. Black: As the Premier's special adviser on drug abuse prevention, I would like to congratulate and pay tribute to the Alliance for a Drug-Free Canada, a group of business executives who have united to help stem the growing tide of drug abuse across this country.

The group is composed of executives from 33 organizations, including AT&T, Abitibi-Price, the Bank of Nova Scotia, the Toronto-Dominion Bank, Bristol-Myers, CP Rail, the Children's Aid Society Foundation, IBM Canada, McCain Foods, Procter and Gamble and many others.

Over the next five years, the Alliance for a Drug-Free Canada plans to raise \$1 million which will provide grants to community groups currently campaigning against drug abuse. I would like to stress that the group's goal is to support and work with existing agencies involved in the battle against drug abuse, a goal which I strongly support. As business persons, members of the group understand the demand side of the drug abuse problem, and it is in this area where they will concentrate their efforts.

The group has issued a challenge to businesses and organizations throughout this country. Today I would like to extend this challenge to other corporations and organizations as well as to the members of this House. We all must recognize the seriousness of drug abuse and the enormous amount of spinoff crime which it is creating. We must all band together to say no. We do not want the ill effects of drug abuse in our neighbourhoods, our schoolyards, our playgrounds or our places of work.

KING GORDON

Mr. D. S. Cooke: King Gordon was one of Canada's most dedicated international public servants. His life's work as a United Church minister, teacher, preacher of the social gospel, writer, editor, public servant for the United Nations and lifelong advocate for causes of international peace and social justice made him one of this country's most remarkable citizens.

He died on Friday in Ottawa at the age of 88. Vigorous and vital to the end, a continuing influence on public opinion and on the hearts and minds of those who sought his counsel, King Gordon worked tirelessly for an end to poverty and injustice in Canada. It was over 50 years ago now that he was one of the founders of the League of Social Reconstruction. As well, he was present at the first convention of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation in Regina.

His interpretation of the social gospel had a major influence on great contemporaries, who included J. S. Woodsworth, Stanley Knowles and Tommy Douglas. His work internationally for the United Nations took him all over the world and he became one of Canada's best known and most loved and respected representatives in his work for the United Nations. He never really retired, continuing his preaching and writing to the end.

His last years were devoted especially to questions of international peace and development. He was a trusted adviser to governments, international agencies and the growing community in Canada advocating on behalf of a new consciousness of an international order. He made a major impact on generations far younger in years. We pass on our condolences to the family.

VICTIMS OF CRIME

Mr. Jackson: No society is truly just which does not give adequate protection to victims of violent crime. Their rights, which are even more important than those of the lawbreaker, are too

often ignored. Today I will introduce a private member's bill to establish a bill of rights for crime victims in Ontario. The bill begins with a statement of principles which defines a number of victims' rights, including a special right to be informed whenever a previous assailant has escaped or been released from lawful custody.

Substantive provisions of this bill include the following: first, allowing the crown to seize the profits made by a criminal from any book, article or interviews concerning his crime; second, allowing civil recovery of damages arising from emotional distress caused by violent crime and establishing a statutory presumption that victims of sexual assault and spouse abuse have suffered emotional distress; third, making prison income subject to the garnishment provisions of the Wages Act.

New Zealand and Manitoba already have statutes similar to this, and I cannot believe that an enlightened society like Ontario refuses to entrench the rights of crime victims in its laws. I therefore urge all members to listen to the voice of victims in their communities and to join in supporting this important and progressive legislation.

1340

FABIEN LEMIEUX

Mr. Campbell: I wish to pay tribute to the life and achievements of the late Fabien Lemieux of Sudbury.

Fabien Lemieux enriched the lives of thousands of northerners through his long and understanding dedication to education, the arts and culture in the Sudbury region and beyond its borders.

Ses contributions au développement et à l'importance des arts dans la collectivité de Sudbury sont permanentes. M. Lemieux était la force qui animait l'Association du festival artistique de Sudbury/Sudbury Arts Festival Association. Il a également joué un rôle important dans la création du projet Les Arts vivants, conçu pour faire connaître les arts visuels et les spectacles de la région. L'un de ses projets les plus importants a été le Festival de marionnettes de Sudbury. Couronné de succès, cet événement était le seul du genre en Amérique du Nord.

I am privileged to say that Fabien Lemieux was a good friend whose insight into the diversity of our arts and cultural community I valued highly. Under his leadership, the arts community held a forum for candidates in the 1985 municipal election.

Although he is missed by many across this province, Fabien Lemieux's vision, energy and unstinting enthusiasm will be long be remembered.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Welland-Thorold for 35 seconds.

DEVELOPMENTALLY HANDICAPPED

Mr. Kormos: James Luchyshyn is 21 years old and it has been over 11 years since he has lived at home, because since 1977 he has lived in institutions, punished for his multiple handicaps and imprisoned by a system which would rather that he be out of sight and out of mind. His family and home are in Welland, but he has been first in St. Catharines and now in West Lincoln, even farther away from friends and family who would visit and share time with him.

He and his family had their hopes lifted in 1987 when the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) promised a plan to move developmentally handicapped individuals out of institutions and into the community. How long—

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has now expired. Thank you.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY

HIGHWAY TRAFFIC

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I am pleased to announce that later this afternoon I will be introducing a bill containing a number of amendments to the Highway Traffic Act, improvements which will make for even greater safety and mobility for people using Ontario's roads.

One series of amendments creates a portable parking permit for disabled persons.

Another series clarifies the status of bicycles as vehicles subject to the same rules of the road as automobiles. Bicyclists appearing to break the rules will be required to identify themselves to police. I am sure the member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore (Mrs. Grier) will be pleased to see this introduction. Another amendment will require bicycles to be equipped with adequate brakes.

A very important provision of this bill will reduce the number of small children travelling on laps or in the cargo area of vehicles. Also to protect children, several amendments are proposed to clarify the responsibilities of school bus operators, passengers and others.

Vehicles removing snow from municipal roads or doing emergency maintenance will be exempted from certain rules of the road which now inhibit those vital operations. Tow-truck

operators will be prevented from soliciting at accident scenes.

The portable disabled-person's parking permit deserves special mention. This card will travel with the disabled person no matter what vehicle that person or the disabled person's driver is using. The portable permit, to be displayed on the dashboard or sun visor of the car, will replace the disabled-symbol licence plate now issued by the ministry and permits issued by municipalities.

Experience has shown that the plate is not practical for disabled persons who must use more than one car. There have also been abuses of the disabled-symbol licence program by drivers who are not disabled.

My colleague the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Eakins) has graciously allowed me to propose complementary amendments to the Ontario Municipal Act which will give the permit status under that statute. His ministry has also prepared a model bylaw which will encourage municipalities to provide consistency and uniformity in parking for disabled persons across Ontario. Municipalities will still be able to tailor their own disabled parking programs to fit local conditions.

I would like to single out the Minister without Portfolio responsible for disabled persons (Mr. Mancini) who, along with his office, has been a strong advocate for this change. I would also like to thank the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs (Mrs. Wilson), the Solicitor General (Mrs. Smith), the many organizations representing disabled and senior citizens, the Ontario Traffic Conference, the Ontario Good Roads Association and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario for their contributions to this progressive legislation.

The remaining provisions of the bill deal with housekeeping matters, such as dishonoured cheques, services rendered by agents, fire marshal vehicles, municipal signs and bylaws and removal of abandoned vehicles.

The net result of the Highway Traffic Amendment Act will be a safer, more efficient and more convenient road system. Bicycle safety and parking for disabled persons are both urgent matters. I therefore urge members of the House to give their support to this many-faceted piece of legislation.

RESPONSES

HIGHWAY TRAFFIC

Mrs. Grier: I am indeed pleased to learn of the introduction of this legislation today and I

thank the minister for his acknowledgement of my private member's bill, which would have achieved that bicyclists have to identify themselves. I look forward to speedy passage of the legislation.

Mr. Morin-Strom: I welcome this initiative from the government as well. We look forward to seeing the details of the bill that has been presented and hope that the minister will take into consideration opposition points of view and the points of view of others in the general public in terms of possible improvements to such an act. Certainly we would all like to do whatever is possible to ensure that our highways and roads are as safe as possible.

We would like to join with the minister in at least several of the specific announcements he has made today with respect to this initiative of amendments to the Highway Traffic Act. In particular, I welcome the initiative with respect to disabled persons in the province. The initiative of introducing a portable disabled-person's parking permit is one which should be of tremendous assistance to the disabled in the province.

The old concept that the disabled would have to designate a vehicle and then be restricted to the use of that vehicle will go out with this. This will enable the disabled to have much greater flexibility in using various vehicles and not being committed to a particular vehicle in terms of their transportation through their local communities. That should be an initiative that will be welcomed by the disabled community and certainly by our party.

As well, the minister makes mention of several amendments that are proposed to clarify the responsibilities of school bus operators, passengers and others. I look forward to seeing the details of that clarification and I hope in particular that the minister has addressed the very serious problem of lack of seatbelts in school buses.

There has been considerable demand that our children receive the same kind of protection. We know there are considerable safety benefits in putting seatbelts in cars and we hope this kind of initiative will be included in this legislation for school buses as well. The minister does not say that specifically, but if not we hope to make amendments to the bill to ensure that protection is included for the children going to our schools and further transport throughout Ontario.

We look forward to dealing with this bill and hope that in fact the full provisions of this bill will ensure greater safety of the public throughout Ontario.

1350

Mr. Villeneuve: I too want to commend the minister for his announcement today on portable parking permits for disabled persons and senior citizens. Let's just hope that they are able to continue driving and that, indeed, the insurance premiums do not drive them underground.

It is always nice to see the government recognize, with lipservice to start with, some of the more positive things that it tries to take credit for. Let's not forget that it is not only lipservice and political Brownie points that we want to make here, we want to make sure that the people who were mentioned in the announcement today are serviced.

I well recall last week at the Ontario Good Roads Association convention an amendment from the floor asking that it no longer be designated "Ontario Good Roads" but "Ontario Bad Roads." I hope the minister remembers that.

I drove up from home last night along Highway 401; as a matter of fact, the member for Prescott and Russell (Mr. Poirier) and I happened to be following one another. It used to be a great highway. Through the Belleville area it is a dangerous highway; it has ruts in it and if it is slippery at all, as it was last night, it is a very dangerous highway.

Hon. Mr. Scott: Go slower.

Mr. Villeneuve: I know the Attorney General would rather not hear these things, but these are the facts.

Highway 416 not only must be looked at on a Brownie-point basis but must be looked at with a view to effectively restructure it as a four-lane access to the nation's capital. When the minister is there next week the Jaycees of the Ottawa area will make absolutely sure that he gets the message, as they will make sure when the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) visits Ottawa on Thursday. The Treasurer should make sure that he has his ear to the ground and that he is listening to the grass roots, because they do mean business.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: It's hard to keep my shoulder to the wheel when my ear is to the ground.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Villeneuve: We in the Progressive Conservative Party certainly appreciate the announcement made by the minister today, but he has a long way to go simply to maintain the quality of roads that he took over in 1985.

Mr. Jackson: I too would like to commend the minister for his announcement and, like all

members, will be anxious to read in detail how substantive these reforms and amendments really are. It is apparent that in the last year and a half his two bouts of convalescence in Ontario hospitals have increased his sensitivity and awareness to the lack of mobility facing disabled persons in this province. I am delighted that at least he has been able to get through to the member of his cabinet responsible in this very sensitive and important area.

While he is talking to that minister, perhaps the Minister of Transportation might look, as are several cabinet ministers, into the case of Wally Elgersma. His transportation services have been cut off, as his medical treatment has been cut off, because of his Christian convictions. I would like to invite the minister to comment on that.

Should these amendments go to committee for examination, perhaps the minister would like to consult with school boards. Obviously the reforms are welcome, but if there is a pricetag attached to it, perhaps he could distinguish himself among his colleagues in cabinet for having at least consulted with school boards before he offers these reforms, since school boards have had to pay additional taxes that the Treasurer did not relieve them of in his last budget. The school boards are now, as he will find in the fine print in Mr. Kruger's document, paying additional moneys for the insurance put on school buses. These are all added costs on which they were not consulted. The matter of safety is an important one for school bus operators and the children they serve.

I ask the minister whether he would also look carefully at the construction of school buses and at including them in the motor vehicle safety standards legislation. To date they have been outside that legislation, and I would like to see them brought well within it.

Finally, would the minister consider looking at GO Transit load factors, if he is concerned about safety, since we are not getting a straight answer from the government in terms of at what point it is safe to ride a GO train or a GO bus in this province? What standards of load factors does he find acceptable, at which he is willing to put trains on those rails for commuters? Otherwise, they will be back on very overcrowded highways in Ontario.

Again, I thank the minister for the legislation. We look forward to participating in the debate on each and every one of the amendments.

ORAL QUESTIONS

CHILD CARE

Mr. R. F. Johnston: My question is for the Minister of Community and Social Services. I

have in my hands a memorandum from the commissioner of community services in the municipality of Metropolitan Toronto to the community services and housing committee. Basically, it is dealing with a number of recommendations to handle a \$6-million shortfall in the 1989 budget for day care in Metro.

In that document, I would like to read the following quote, "The final option, the total and immediate divestment of the municipally operated program, as suggested by the Ministry of Community and Social Services, is not, in the opinion of the department, a viable option to effect cost savings."

Would the minister comment about this allegation that his ministry has actually been suggesting that Metro divest itself of its child care services?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: I met with officials from Metro, I guess it is about six or seven months ago now, dealing with this specific issue. I pointed out to them that the cost of operating their own facilities is 40 per cent higher per diem than it is for them to buy the same service from one of the nonprofit centres already in the community.

On the basis of that, I indicated very clearly that our ministry would no longer be supporting in any financial way the establishment of more directly operated facilities and quite frankly suggested to them that they ought to look at the fact that, of all the communities in the province, they had the highest percentage of those directly operated.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The minister knows he is comparing apples and oranges when he says that. This municipality in particular has been a leader in raising the salaries of day care workers to the position of almost adequacy. Their average salary for a graduate with a community college diploma is \$23,500. That, plus some ancillary programs which they have, which no private organization in Metro has that I am aware of, is the reason for the difference in the costs.

Their analysis is that it would make no significant difference to divest, except that this leadership would be lost and perhaps this would be seen as a means of avoiding the pay equity responsibilities of Metro. Does the minister have any comments on that?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: I clearly did not suggest to them that they divest totally. I never in any way suggested that. What I did suggest was that I would not support them financially to enlarge that base any more and, quite frankly, that they ought to look at divesting some of what they have. We did not talk about the pay equity issue

at all. That never came up in our discussions. Therefore, I am not sure to what extent it would make any impact one way or the other on that particular issue.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The minister seems to be oblivious to the slap in the face this is to the pioneering efforts of Metropolitan Toronto in raising the standards of quality day care.

Is the minister not aware that we already have 4,000 people on waiting lists for subsidized care in the province? Talking about divesting any of the 3,000 spaces that are presently available under Metro's responsibility would be a major mistake. The series of options they are looking at include partial divestment of some of the best and oldest day care facilities in Ontario that have led the way.

Is the minister not ashamed that he, as a Liberal minister, is promulgating such a notion, rather than funding the government's portion of that \$6-million shortfall for good, quality day care in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: Part of the reason for that \$6-million deficit is that, in fact, Metro has gone out and increased, despite its discussion with me, its directly operated facilities. The very fact that they have such a long waiting list, when they are spending 40 per cent more in their own centres than what they are buying, is to me an improper use of the funds that are available to them.

1400

SOUTH AFRICAN INVESTMENTS

Mr. Laughren: I have a question for the Treasurer. The Treasurer would know—indeed he talked about the fact—that when Ontario Hydro had a Eurobond issue in Europe recently, the Swiss banks were excluded from participating in that issue because of their dealings with the South African government. That is to be commended, and of course we agree with that.

It would appear, however, that the Ontario government is not quite as pure as the Treasurer would have us believe concerning the commercial arrangements between this province and South Africa. The Ontario government presently owns about \$20-million worth of shares in Varsity Corp., which was previously Massey-Ferguson.

Could the Treasurer tell us why he has not had his government divest itself of the \$20-million worth of shares in Varsity Corp., which deals with South Africa?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I do not make any pretensions to purity, unlike the honourable member. We do the best we can. It was decided, in establishing the syndicate for the Euro-

Canadian dollars, that we should include the banks and financial institutions that the honourable member is aware of. We did the best we could there.

The Varsity shares, I am informed by proper advice or advice that I am prepared to take, should not be sold under the circumstances the honourable member describes since in fact we have certain actions pertaining to Varsity. If we were to divest the shares at this time, it might be construed as having internal information or even a conflict of interest. These shares came into the control of the Treasury some years ago under circumstances that the honourable member would recall.

Mr. Laughren: I guess there is always a reason for not wanting to lose a few dollars.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: We would gain on that.

Mr. Laughren: Then there is no reason why the government cannot divest itself of those shares.

The government does not seem to have any articulated policy on dealings with South Africa. In the 1987-88 Public Accounts of Ontario there is an example of the Ministry of Health doing business with National Business Systems to the tune of about \$36,000. It is not that the dollars are so great so much as the principle involved. Although since then National Business has divested itself of South African shares or businesses, at that time it was active in South African business.

I am wondering why the Treasurer's government does not have a position that says, "There will be no dealings with companies that have investments or business in South Africa and we will not buy supplies that come from companies that have dealings with South Africa or if those supplies or part of them are being made up from products in South Africa." Why is there no government policy on procurement in that regard?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The government attempts not to do business with South Africa. In the instance the honourable member referred to in the first part of his question, we try not to do business with financial institutions that are directly involved in financing the operations in South Africa.

I say again that the ramifications of various businesses—presumably including the one the honourable member mentioned, which I have never heard of before but probably should have—are intricate and difficult to unravel. Other jurisdictions with at least good intentions towards expressing their opposition to the policy of

apartheid are subject, I suppose, to the same kinds of questions and arguments that they do not achieve perfection.

I simply say to the honourable members that we do our best in indicating publicly by our actions that we do not support and in fact are totally offended by the policy of apartheid. We want to show, by the actions of this government, what our views are.

Mr. Laughren: It is difficult dealing with the Treasurer, because he says all the right things but then does not do anything to back up what he says.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I just said your first question was—

Mr. Laughren: We know that between January and September, 1988 over 1987, imports from South Africa to Canada were up 45 per cent and exports to South Africa from Ontario were up 52 per cent. Surely to goodness, even if the Treasurer does not have a legal responsibility, there is some kind of moral responsibility to let it be known in Ontario that this must stop, that we have to discourage this and reverse the trend.

What plans does the Treasurer have to make sure that trend of increasing trade with South Africa is reversed?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I believe the best way to accomplish this is not by passing some legislation nor for the Treasurer, who does not have the power, to promulgate some edict that businesses must do thus and so. We can, however, show by our example in the allocation of public funds where the views of the government stand, and we know that they are strongly and heartily supported by all members of the Legislature. I say again that the House and the people of this province are against the policy of apartheid and we are trying to demonstrate, as effectively as is reasonable, that we want to substantially support that through our actions and our decisions.

HOSPITAL SERVICES

Mr. Brandt: My question is for the Minister of Health. The question relates to a young lady by the name of Sarah Riviere, who was born in a small community just outside of Tillsonburg, Ontario. This young lady was born in May 1988 with a very serious heart defect, as well as being afflicted with Down syndrome. When she was six weeks old, it was diagnosed that this young child would, because of heart problems, require heart surgery and the doctor determined that the surgery would not be able to be undertaken until she was at least eight months of age.

Subsequent to that background, I want to inform the minister that the doctor tried to book this young lady for surgery, since she had now reached that age, at the Hospital for Sick Children in January and was subsequently advised that the operation will not be possible until April of this year.

Is that an indication of how well the health system of our province serves our people, when there is this very lengthy delay in a situation that is as serious and life-threatening as the one that I have just identified?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I would say to the leader of the third party that if he would care to give me the information that he presented to the House today, I will ask ministry officials to contact the hospital and to determine what, if anything, the decisions were in the hospital in making this medical judgement. If, in fact, he is correct that it is serious and life-threatening, I can tell him that people in life-threatening situations are never turned away from Ontario hospitals and in fact are given priority.

Mr. Brandt: There is a letter which has been sent to the minister as of February 16. She may not have had an opportunity to read it yet, but the letter was addressed to me with a copy to her about this particular case. I want her to know that the parents are not in fact blaming the hospitals or the physicians. They are very frustrated with the fact that they have a troubled child who was born with some serious problems. Obviously they are very stressed and apprehensive about the surgery this child is going to have to undergo.

I want to advise the minister as well that the child must be fed at the moment through a nasal gastric tube. There are many complications at the moment. It would appear from my perspective—and I say this to her with all respect—that our health care system appears to be one in which we receive health care not when needed, but when available.

In this particular instance, “when available” appears to be in April of this year. Is that acceptable to the minister? These are the circumstances this family faces.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I think it is important for the leader of the third party to know that decisions are made based on the very best medical judgement available. Physicians determine who receives care and when, in the order of priority based on their needs, in this province and in this country.

The basic principles of medicare are that attention is given to those most in need and that priority is always given to those in life-

threatening and emergency situations. I can tell him that often there are a number of hospitals which offer services. We encourage those hospitals to work together on a referral basis.

If he will give me that information, I will be pleased to investigate this particular situation.

Mr. Brandt: I do not like to exaggerate these cases when I bring them before the minister. In this particular instance, we have a child with only two valves working in her heart. It has been determined by the attending physician that heart surgery is going to be necessary. Whether it is life-threatening today—certainly it is highly critical that this child receive surgery as quickly as possible because of the other complications that I have already pointed out to the minister.

1410

Will the minister, upon receipt of the letter that was mailed to her on February 16, intervene if at all possible, and see that this child's timetable be moved up to as short a period as possible and feasible at the Hospital for Sick Children, to see that this particular surgery can be undertaken?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I would say to the leader of the third party that, in fact, I rely on physicians to use their very best medical judgement. I believe it is inappropriate for politicians to interfere in the prioritization of cases. It is extremely important that people have confidence in the fact that these decisions be made on the basis of need and not on the basis of any kind of inappropriate interference on a political basis.

I have said that I would be pleased to investigate, but I can tell the member that I have confidence in the physicians in this province, that they make their determinations on the basis of need. I will be pleased to investigate this case.

Interjections.

Mr. Brandt: Applaud if you like, but the best medical judgement in this case was in January.

DRUG ABUSE

Mr. Brandt: My next question is to the Solicitor General. I have been absent from this House for a couple of days, and during—

Mr. Campbell: A couple of days. Fourteen is a little more like it. That sets the tone for the outrageous question you asked.

Mr. Brandt: All right, three.

I have taken the time, upon my return, to look over some of the news reports, as most of us do obviously when we return from a short sabbatical. While I was looking at some of those news reports, I became increasingly disturbed about the number of headlines in most of our leading

newspapers dealing with the increased incidents and concerns surrounding the issues of both crack and cocaine.

In fact, the minister was in receipt some months ago of the Black report, which indicated a number of recommendations to fight this very, very serious problem in our society. Can the minister tell this House what she has done with respect to assisting our police forces in what may be the number one problem that we have to deal with in today's society?

Hon. Mrs. Smith: We welcome back the member for Sarnia and hope he has had as good a holiday as he looks as if he had. We are happy to work with him for the one week.

On the more serious problem which the member has addressed, the problem of drugs in our society, we indeed are working very hard to co-operate with metropolitan police forces in their efforts to address the problem of drugs which in so many cases falls under their jurisdiction.

As well, the Ontario Provincial Police are co-operating with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in areas—Sarnia being one of them, I believe, and Windsor and Kingston—where it seems most important that their co-operation with the RCMP be directed toward stopping the drugs at the borders.

We are also looking very closely at educational matters within the training of police forces themselves, so that the police will be more aware of what they can do in prevention and in the education of young people in order to avoid drug use among those young people.

Mr. Brandt: I do not hear a great deal of hope in the minister's response, I say with respect. The Black report called for—this is one of your colleagues who produced this report—a doubling of the OPP drug enforcement squad in order to more effectively fight the problem of drugs in our society.

The minister is going to have a new budget submission shortly, which the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) will be dealing with. Is the minister prepared to recommend a doubling in order to provide an adequate response to this very serious problem? Is she prepared to provide a doubling of her budget in terms of the OPP drug squad, as recommended by her colleague the member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay (Mr. Black)?

Hon. Mrs. Smith: I am happy to report that the justice ministries are working together and working on the Black report to see what they will recommend in the new budget that will be forthcoming in the new House. We looked

closely at all the recommendations. They do not all apply to our ministries. There are recommendations as well in education, in the health field and others. We know that these will be closely regarded by the Premier (Mr. Peterson) as he prepares his throne speech and by the Treasurer as we move into a new year, but we recognize as well that it must be a co-ordinated effort of all ministries.

Mr. Brandt: I would like to point out to the minister that some of the municipal police forces have already taken some action in this respect. Metropolitan Toronto, as she knows, has increased its force by 90, specifically to fight drugs. Within the last week Mississauga has requested an additional 15 officers to put on drug detachment, with the specific purpose again of fighting the drug problem.

Is the minister prepared to look at any kind of a special supplementary grant or assistance program to assist municipal police forces in the context of her next budget? I say that because the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Eakins) has flat-lined his budget. Municipalities have serious problems with respect to the good roads that they have been attempting to maintain and that they are now calling bad roads. They have a series of problems. They cannot cope with this issue by themselves. Is the minister prepared to help by providing some supplementary funding for police forces?

Hon. Mrs. Smith: As the member well knows, it is not generally done to fund individual programs within police forces that are in fact the responsibility of the areas that hire them. We do many supportive programs to assist through training, through support and through other such areas, and will continue to do so. But we recognize, as does the member, that metropolitan police forces, in choosing their programs, have the responsibility of making their own choices.

HOSPITAL SERVICES

Mr. Farnan: I have a question for the Minister of Health. I wish to read from a letter I received from a constituent, Fernando Frazao, on February 18, 1989:

"I have had heart problems for a few years and was diagnosed for a heart bypass on February 1, 1989, by Dr. Nunkis of University Hospital, London, Ontario, and was advised by him that I would have to wait six or more months before surgery could be performed. So therefore, like other Canadians, I have been put on a waiting list. I could be dead before then."

Mr. Frazao asks the question in his letter, "If all the Ontario hospitals that do this kind of surgery are unable to keep up with the demand, why not refer those patients who are waiting to a hospital in the USA and have all their expenses covered?"

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: On numerous occasions in this House we have discussed the issue of access to services in this province, particularly highly specialized services such as cardiac care, which we recognize is delivered in nine hospitals in six centres across the province.

I can say to the member opposite that in fact services and access to those services are determined by physicians, based on medical need. We determined that it was appropriate to increase capacity in this province and last June acknowledged that with an increase of funding of \$20 million.

As the member knows, there has been some frustration in bringing that on line, but we are working very closely with both the hospitals and medical professionals to see that that capacity is increased. I know the physicians, nurses and hospitals are working together to make sure we have the resources available so that people will have access to the services they need in a timely manner.

1420

Mr. Farnan: My staff phoned Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston and were informed by Barbara Hebert, administrator of the cardiac unit, that arrangements could be made within a six-week period of the first contact with the hospital to provide heart surgery for Mr. Frazao or any properly referred Canadian citizen. The minister will be aware that the Ontario health insurance plan does not come close to covering the costs of this surgery in a US hospital.

My question to the minister is: Given that her ministry is responsible for providing these services, does it not make sense to pay for the surgery of Mr. Frazao and others in the US in the short term, while she attempts to bring about the changes that will allow surgery to be performed in Ontario within a reasonable time period?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The increase in capacity in Hamilton in fact has resulted in a stabilization and a shortening of the waiting time there. Ottawa reports a waiting time not much longer than what the member has referred to the House from outside of Ontario, and that is some 8 to 10 weeks. However, I want to tell him that emergency and urgent cases are prioritized by physicians, that care is delivered in Ontario in different centres of this province, as he knows,

based on the patient's need and that the physicians are the ones who determine the priority in which care is given.

We are addressing this problem and this issue together, and I am confident that we have the foundation upon which to build and that we will, in very short order, see the waiting times significantly reduced right across the province, as they have already been in certain locations.

VICTIMS OF CRIME

Mr. Jackson: My question is to the Attorney General. This morning I met with Mrs. Carole Cameron, who is both provincial and national president of a group known as Victims of Violence. I am sure the Attorney General is familiar with the group. They are very supportive of victims' rights legislation, but they are also very concerned about Bill C-89.

As the minister knows, that was passed by Parliament, but certain sections, specifically those which relate to restitution orders for criminals to compensate their victims, have not yet been proclaimed, at the request of the provinces. Is Ontario now prepared to implement Bill C-89, and will any necessary legislation that the minister might have be introduced in this session?

Hon. Mr. Scott: There will not be any new provincial legislation required in order to implement the provisions of Bill C-89, in so far as restitution hearings are concerned. That portion of the federal bill has not been proclaimed by the Governor in Council, at the unanimous request of all the provinces in Canada, led by the most conservative provinces, because the provinces are anxious to get from the federal government some assurance that there will be support for the very serious financial obligations that bill will impose on local taxpayers.

However, as the honourable member knows, that aside, we are working hard in Ontario to ensure that victim-witness programs are widely developed and widely applied. We have offices in 10 communities in Ontario which are doing a wonderful job in this area, and I hope very much in the near future we will be able to expand this program across the province.

Mr. Jackson: I was more specifically asking the minister about Bill C-89, the federal legislation. He will be aware that another section of that bill has not been proclaimed, and that provides for a victim fine surcharge against criminals. That money will go to the province, and it will in fact go to the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon), sitting

next to the minister. Its purpose is to provide specific support services for victims.

The organization Victims of Violence is concerned that once this bill is proclaimed, these funds will go into the Treasurer's consolidated revenue fund and not to the victims for whom this federal legislation was envisaged. The minister responded on February 3 in a letter to the organization, and he was unclear. It would appear he has not yet decided on that fundamental question. Therefore, I would ask the minister, in the House today, will he give his commitment today that these funds will go directly to direct services for victims of violence in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Scott: The honourable member, in his second question, brings up another provision of Bill C-89. He will understand that the provincial governments are not opposed to the proclamation of this section and look forward to its proclamation at whatever date the federal government selects.

As the honourable member will know, this provision is very important, because many provinces in this country do not have the kind of victim-witness programs that we are lucky enough to have in Ontario. The money is being provided to ensure that victim-witness programs and criminal injuries compensation such as we have in Ontario can be instituted in other provinces.

Mr. Jackson: What about funding sexual assault centres? That is what we are talking about.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Scott: As the honourable member would know if he was not so noisy, the reality is that this government, over four years, has made a major commitment to criminal injuries compensation, raising for the first time in 1986 rates that that empty volcano of a government had not raised in over 14 years. The commitment of this government to victim-witness programs and criminal injuries compensation is very well established, and this bill will ensure that we will be able to continue.

We hope that the honourable member can persuade his leader in Ottawa to proclaim it.

USE OF LOT LEVIES

Ms. Poole: My question is for the Treasurer. On Thursday, February 23, the Toronto Board of Education responded to the government's green paper which deals with education lot levies. In analysing the issue of lot levies, the board asked for a guarantee that if the government does decide to go ahead with the proposal, lot levies

for school boards would be used to augment and not to substitute for provincial funding of capital programs.

I ask that the Treasurer confirm that if the lot levy proposal proceeds, the province's current commitment of \$300 million per year in capital funding for the education system, for each year over the next three years, will be maintained and that any funds raised by the Toronto Board of Education through lot levies would in fact augment the capital funding resources of the board.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I thank the honourable member for notice of the question, because it is an important one. I am glad to have the chance to reiterate that the commitment of \$300 million a year for educational capital, beginning next year, is for three years. If the Legislature decides to enable school boards to establish a lot levy program, it will be with the thought of speeding up the capital development of our school system rather than reducing the cost to the province.

I think it is worth noting that just four years ago, the capital commitment from the previous government, a moment ago described as an empty volcano, was only \$78 million. We have moved this to \$300 million, and the commitment is for three years. I am glad the honourable member has given me an opportunity to reiterate it.

Ms. Poole: According to the green paper, the major purpose of implementing a lot levy system is to relieve some of the enormous pressure to build new schools across the province, particularly in the high-growth areas. The problem is that this pressure for new schools has made it difficult for jurisdictions such as the city of Toronto to obtain much-needed capital funding to renovate and repair our ageing schools.

It is my understanding that a substantial portion of the provincial share of capital funding would be used in future for renovating our ageing schools if the lot levy proposal is adopted. Can the Treasurer confirm that this is indeed the case?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I think that would be particularly of interest to the school board in Toronto, because the thought of extensive new development in Toronto that would require the capital from lot levy sources is not clearly apparent. However, the honourable member correctly points out that the pressure for renovation, capital improvements, will be very great.

It is certainly our hope that if the concept of more autonomy to school boards, that is by way of having the right to levy the improvements in financing that are included in the green paper—

and it is not just lot levies but a variety of other alternatives—it really means that the \$300 million referred to in the honourable member's original question might be available in larger amount for the kinds of renovation a mature community would require.

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HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION

Mr. Morin-Strom: I have a question for the Minister of Transportation with regard to highways in northern Ontario. The minister must know by now that the number one priority in transportation needs right across northern Ontario is the four-laning of the Trans-Canada Highway, a project that has been advocated by northerners for years and one that this government, like the previous Conservative government, has refused to act upon.

The minister's own party took a stand in northern Ontario in the last federal election that this would be a vital project for the north. Will the minister, who is responsible here in the province for that highway, give us some assurance that he has a timetable and a plan to see that we will see the four-laning of the Trans-Canada Highway in the foreseeable future?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: That question has been asked in this House on a number of occasions. I am not sure the member's colleague the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) would necessarily agree with that priority.

We have addressed this issue on a number of occasions. We recognize, with no uncertainty, the priority that is required and the enormity of that project. It is a 2,000-kilometre project. It is not something that is going to be done overnight. But the member will recognize the work that has been done; he will recognize the ongoing work in Ottawa West and from west of Ottawa, he will recognize the work that is being done in northern Ontario between Sudbury and Sault Ste. Marie.

I appreciate that his friend the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) will fully appreciate some of the difficulties we have in that area. He will appreciate the work we are attempting to do with respect to the Nipigon to Thunder Bay area, for which we have spent enormous amounts of money in the riding of our friend the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Pouliot) in repairing Highway 17.

We have said before and we say again that the four-laning and the incremental improvements on Highway 17 are of paramount importance to us. I think we have demonstrated that by our actions over the last few years.

Mr. Morin-Strom: I think the minister has just led into the supplementary in terms of his action in the last few years. The minister admits the project is a 2,000-kilometre project, a substantial one indeed, but what has the government's record been? Let's look at the construction projects for northern highways in 1987-88. That program included, for multilane divided highways, five kilometres in his program. Then this last year, 1988-89, for northern transportation construction projects, two kilometres of multilane undivided highways is the only commitment in northern Ontario. That is a total of seven kilometres over the last two years.

This book is going to be published again in the next few months in terms of the minister's construction projects for 1989-90. Will the minister tell us whether he is going to beat his record of the last two years and how many kilometres of divided highway in northern Ontario we are going to see actually proceed next year?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: The importance of the highway from one end to the other, from Manitoba to the Quebec border, cannot be understated. The member has to understand that he is not including the truck climbing lanes, the passing lanes and the incredible amount of money that is spent annually on maintenance, on preventing rock slides and all sorts of things, and on bridges. In the riding of Lake Nipigon, I might add, there is the most significant bridge on the entire highway in the north. We have to spend an inordinate amount of money to maintain that.

The member does not acknowledge the work that was done in the area of Hemlo, as my friend the member for Lake Nipigon would appreciate, or many of the other projects that are done up there. He knows we are addressing those needs. He knows the difficulties we are having in the area of my friend the member for Algoma, which I am sure he would be more interested in addressing, with respect to the Sault Ste. Marie area of that very highway. He knows we are committed to it and he knows we have attempted on a number of occasions to get the federal government, which was a primary funder in the first instance, to co-operate and once again demonstrate the needs of Ontario as well.

HOSPITAL FUNDING

Mr. Harris: In 1984, Premier Davis made a commitment to the North Bay joint hospital committee and to the people of North Bay and the surrounding area that the province would provide funding for a new hospital for that region.

He made the commitment on behalf of the government. He told the community and the board they could go ahead and start the planning. He flowed the funds so the planning would start. He recognized it would be a five- or six-year project. He followed it up with a letter from the Minister of Health of the day who said, "Yes, we are committed to funding this hospital to completion and we will fund it each step of the way as the planning goes along."

In 1985, this government took over and all of that was stopped. It has been five years since that commitment was made on behalf of the government. I would like to ask the minister today, when is she going to live up to a government's commitment to North Bay and the people of that region, that a new hospital would go ahead in that area?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: As the member will know, numerous commitments were made by the previous government without any planning within the Ministry of Health. We know in fact that the case he cites is an example of one of them.

Mr. Harris: The minister has made this statement previously and in fact the Premier (Mr. Peterson) has made this statement previously. In effect, what she and the Premier have said to the people of North Bay is that Premier Davis lied in 1984, that he had no plans to deliver that hospital.

I want to tell the minister that, with all the similarities that are being drawn these days between Mr. Davis and the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson), there is one thing: When Premier Davis went around this province and he made a commitment, he lived up to the commitment; he put the funding programs in place. He and the Minister of Health followed up with a letter in writing that said: "As each stage of this goes forward, we will provide the funding. We acknowledge North Bay hospital as a priority and we will provide the funds in the regular way throughout that period of time."

What the people want to know is why this minister and this government, since 1985, are not prepared to make the same commitment. What new priorities does the minister have that say the North Bay hospital is no longer important to this government?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The categorization by the member for Nipissing could not be further from reality. He knows full well that in fact the North Bay project was not included in the ministry's capital plan that was announced, that it is one of a number of projects ongoing in the province that are looking at innovative and creative approaches

to providing appropriately for the services in their community into the future.

I can tell him that we have been very supportive of the initiatives undertaken by the board, under the chairmanship of John Hobbs, to look at innovative and creative approaches. I would say to him that he should be supportive of those kinds of discussions as opposed to raising the spectre of partisanship entering into good planning. I know he would support good rational planning for the province, as I do.

TRADE MISSION

Mr. Owen: I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. India has a large population of close to one billion people and therefore provides a substantial market for both raw materials and manufactured goods. At the same time, it has a reputation of being highly self-sufficient and therefore a difficult market to penetrate. I understand that on the weekend the minister returned from a trade mission to India. I want to know if he can share with us whether anything was accomplished at that time, and whether he has some good news or bad news as a result of his visit there.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I thank the member for his question. I think members would like to know that as part of my trip we had the occasion to open the first subjurisdictional trade office in India for Ontario, which caused a great deal of interest. I also represented the federal government at the Indian International Engineering Trade Fair, where Canada was the second largest exhibitor. I had the honour of being the keynote speaker.

We also entered into a memorandum of understanding with ACMA, the Automotive Components Manufacturers' Association, to provide technological assistance, so that they can establish the kind of auto parts industry we enjoy in Ontario. The purpose of this is so we can exchange technology and set up two-way trade.

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It is also important to note that India, which has a population of 800 million, will be approaching one billion before the year 2000; in that situation, there are 150 million consumers. There is an incredible opportunity for Ontario-based companies to do business in India, not only in the domestic market but also as joint ventures in other areas in southeast Asia and particularly in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. India has a unique ruble-rupee relationship, and one of the biggest problems when you deal with—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. Owen: I looked at some figures with regard to our trade with India and I noted that from 1983 to 1987 the two-way trade has increased \$100 million, from \$346 million to \$446 million. At the same time, in Ontario we have been shifting our emphasis from supplying raw materials to the export of manufactured goods. As well, during that same period of time, the number of joint ventures has more than doubled, from 40 to 97.

If the minister can share it with us, in the light of these figures that I have provided and in the light of what has been happening to our shift to manufactured goods to that country, what can we look forward to happening by way of collaboration with India in the 1990s?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: There are some excellent opportunities. One of the things I did when I was there was witness the signing of a memorandum of understanding between a company in Windsor called Judricks Enterprises and a company in India called Mahindra and Mahindra, which manufactures the Jeep. The joint venture is going to allow them to build components in India for that using the expertise of this Windsor-based company.

There are several other companies that are exploring joint ventures with Ontario-based companies. I think the dramatic increase in the number of joint ventures shown over the last couple of years will be even greater in the next couple of years to come. We are very excited about the prospects and we really look to India as a major market in southeast Asia.

DARLINGTON NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION

Mrs. Grier: My question is for the Minister of Health. I am sure the minister is aware of the concern of the members of this party about health problems associated with nuclear plants. That concern is shared by the residents of Pickering and those residents surrounding Darlington and has been increased by recent reports of incidents in the United States.

The minister may also know that a request has been made for a proper base-line health study to be conducted of the population surrounding Darlington prior to the opening of the Darlington nuclear generating station. At a recent meeting in Newcastle of the Ontario Hydro liaison committee, a representative of the ministry acknowledged that existing data were inadequate and that no proper study had been done. Does the minister support the need for a base-line health study of the population surrounding the Darling-

ton nuclear generating station prior to the opening of the plant?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I would say to the member opposite that I am not familiar with the request, but would be pleased to look into it.

Mrs. Grier: I appreciate the fact the minister is going to look into it, but I want to point out to her that time is of the essence. In January, the Hydro liaison committee, in consultation with the town of Newcastle, asked for a meeting with ministry staff to discuss the need for a study. What I would like to have from the minister is a commitment that she will proceed with all haste with such a study.

The plant is scheduled to open in September and the whole point of doing a base-line health study is to have data prior to the operation of the plant, so that if in the future there are reasons for concern, there is something with which to compare the data at that time. Does the minister understand that and will she agree that if she finds there is a need for such a study, it should be done quickly?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I can inform the member opposite that my interest in establishing data on health status and information of population surveys is very clear. In fact, the Premier (Mr. Peterson) announced the commencement of a health status survey that would be done in conjunction with the Premier's Council on Health Strategy. Planning for the Ontario-wide health status survey is under way at the present time. I will review her request, but I can tell her that we are planning to proceed with a health status survey of the population of Ontario that will give us an important benchmark for future planning.

CROWN LAND

Mr. Pollock: I have a question for the Minister of Natural Resources. At the convention of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters a week ago Friday, a gentleman asked the minister if he had any intention of selling off large tracts of crown land. As he indicated, he meant whole lakes for development, over and above the norm of selling off occasional lake-front lots. Will the minister place on the record his comments on that particular situation?

Mr. McLean: Probably asked him to resign.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: No; that is right too, but that is not going to happen, of course.

The fact is that the question was not posed quite like that. The question was whether we were going to sell huge tracts of land to American

investors to build on. I said that was not what the crown land as a development tool arrangement was about, that the initiatives we were taking were to give opportunities for people in northern Ontario to go forward with tourism involvements, building cottages, building hydro sites with our native people, and doing all sorts of good things for the benefit of the people of Ontario. Certainly, it was never taken into account that we should sell large tracts of land to investors who would be going in that direction, to subdivide or some such thing. The answer was unequivocal.

I am surprised the member did not get a report on that from one of his members who attended because he was there when the question was raised. He was telling people how they could join the Tory party if they wanted to hunt in every park in Ontario.

Mr. Pollock: I was there too. I just wanted the minister to place on the record what his comments were. I would like to know, if the minister is going to sell off some of these tracts of land for hydro development or whatever, is it going to be subject to environmental assessment?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: That question is quite different from the first one. The member asked about selling huge tracts of land to American investors and I said that certainly was not the case. I think anything else that takes place on crown land, for whatever purpose, is going to go through the proper process.

The member must be witness to the fact that right now we are doing a major involvement with checking the fisheries on Indian Lake. It is one of the reasons that initiative is being held up. I am doing that to conform with the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley), who has every right to make certain that when we do things in this province, as was not the case in the past, we do them not only to have these opportunities but we do them in an environmentally sound way. The member can depend on this Minister of the Environment and the Minister of Natural Resources to do it in a very acceptable way.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. We have dealt with that subject.

INMATE WORK PROGRAMS

Mr. Tatham: My question is for the Minister of Correctional Services. A recent newspaper article said that a number of American states are considering allowing prison inmates to work for private industry to help pay the cost of incarceration. Is this idea worth pursuing?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: We have many in-house industries in our different correctional centres throughout the province. These could be classified into different types: ones that are run by the ministry itself and those that are run in conjunction with private enterprise. I would like to give the member an example of some of the industries we do ourselves. We produce all of the inmate clothing. We produce socks, mattresses and other items that we consume ourselves and that we sell to other ministries of the government and to other institutions. We look upon these programs as more of a skills-training exercise than a revenue-generating exercise.

Mr. Tatham: The article suggests that about 14 states have set up programs to allow private firms to hire inmates to make goods for sale to the public. Part of the proposal of California Governor George Deukmejian recently announced that for each day worked inmates would get a one-day reduction in their sentence. Part of the earnings would go to compensate the victims of the crime. Are our correctional inmates involved in any work-for-pay programs like this?

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Hon. Mr. Ramsay: We certainly have work-for-pay programs. We do not credit them against their keep or towards shortening the sentence. Some of the examples of joint enterprises that we have with private companies are a trout processing plant at our Guelph Correctional Centre and an auto parts plant at Maplehurst Correctional Centre in Milton. These are some of the examples of some of the products that we produce.

Again, I would like to say to the members that we look at these programs as extremely valuable in teaching skills and work habits in order to prepare the offender for the world outside of our institutions.

NORTHERN HEALTH SERVICES

Mr. Hampton: I have a question for the Minister of Health. As the Minister of Health knows, we have asked several questions about health care in northern Ontario. Recently, I received a letter—in fact, a stack of letters—from the Ontario Medical Association. It comes as no surprise, I think, to the minister and to myself that the OMA has been in touch with her ministry over the last two years asking her ministry to take initiatives on northern health care and her ministry has been saying, “Oh yes, we have this planned, we have that planned,” and yet I receive a letter from the OMA representative in north-western Ontario saying that nothing is moving,

that although they have received letter after letter, after two years special committees that were to be set up have not been established.

In view of the fact her ministry has carried on discussions with the OMA specifically about improving northern health care, what is the minister going to do? What initiatives does she have planned, if she has been going about setting up this program over the last two years?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: We have discussed our commitment to northern health care in this House on a number of occasions and spent considerable time during estimates. The member knows full well that there are numerous initiatives under way, specifically the Northern Health Manpower Committee, which is being formulated right at this present time. We have established a northern health care co-ordinator within the ministry. The underserved area program is working actively with northern communities.

The list is ongoing and significant, and I would say to him that my vision of providing equity and access to the people of northern Ontario to effective quality health care is unquestioned.

Mr. Hampton: I get quite another impression from those northern doctors who sit on the OMA committee on northern health care, because what they are saying is that her ministry has done nothing but stall over the last two years. There have been promises. There have been promises to deal with the doctor shortage and there have been promises to deal with facility shortage, but in fact in two years there has not been one concrete step.

What is the minister doing to deal, first of all with the doctor shortage? Above and beyond the underserved area program, which has not worked, what is she doing to deal with the doctor shortage?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I would take exception with the statement from the member opposite. The underserved area program is in fact working and it is working well. We know that more than 800 doctors, dentists and other health care professionals have been placed in 218 designated underserved areas in this province.

I can tell him as well that I believe the most significant undertaking initiated by this government in the past two years was the northern travel grant program, which has been reviewed on an ongoing basis.

I can tell him as well that we have been working diligently with physicians from numerous organizations across northern Ontario, and when I travelled across the province the response from physicians on an individual basis was that in

fact they want to work with us so that we can meet those special needs of the people of the north and acknowledge both geographic and regional distributional problems.

I can say to the member opposite we had many opportunities to discuss our bursary programs. We have had numerous opportunities to discuss the new programming initiatives in areas of rehabilitation, specialization, physiotherapy, occupational therapy—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

BEEKEEPING INDUSTRY

Mr. Villeneuve: I have a question to the Minister of Agriculture and Food. The minister is aware that the cost of producing Ontario honey is now greater than the price for which it is being sold. Can the minister tell this House why he has refused to provide temporary capital, research or marketing assistance to the beekeeping industry, in spite of having a \$37-million surplus in his budget this year?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: One has to know a little more about the honey industry than the honourable member has revealed.

The reason the honey industry is in a little trouble at the present time is that the American government has ceased to buy honey, as it did before. This means that no longer do the western provinces have an opportunity to export their honey into the United States, so now they are using Ontario as an export market for their honey. That is the reason the industry is in trouble at the present time. It may well be only temporary.

Mr. Villeneuve: Are you going to help?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: We do help them in a number of areas. We help by way of research. We help them control damage to their colonies. We do a lot of work with the honey producers, but what they are asking for is an outright payment, and we are saying they should use the tripartite stabilization program. That is the program that all other people are using in order to stabilize prices. That is what they should be using.

PETITIONS

TAX INCREASES

Mr. Brandt: Today I am tabling a petition to the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It is one of the largest petitions ever delivered in this House. It is signed by 32,000 residents of the province. These petitioners are objecting to the tax increases

imposed by the Peterson government and in particular by Bill 122, An Act to amend the Retail Sales Tax Act. This legislation, which is to receive third reading later today retroactive to April 25, 1988, will increase the provincial sales tax to eight per cent.

The petitioners say, in essence, "Bob Nixon, the people of Ontario will not forget that you went too far."

Here is one of the petitions, and I will have these delivered.

TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION

Mr. Tatham: I have a petition with 47 signatures:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We request the government of the province of Ontario to recommence negotiations and direct the parties to the negotiation process to work towards a reform of pension arrangements which will serve the legitimate needs of both the government of Ontario and the teachers of this province. As Ontario educators, with full participation in the teachers' superannuation plan, we have a direct and vital interest in these negotiations with respect to both our current and continuing status as contributors, and to our retirement security."

It is also signed by myself.

Miss Roberts: To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"To amend the Teachers' Superannuation Act, in order that all teachers who retired prior to May 31, 1982, have their pensions recalculated on the best five years rather than at the present seven or 10 years.

"This proposed amendment would make the five-year criteria applicable to all retired teachers and would eliminate the present inequitable treatment."

There are 167 signatures, and I have signed it as well.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Miss Martel: To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the Liberal members of the standing committee on resources development have voted

to oppose an opposition motion to hear all deputations who want to appear before the committee on Bill 162;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly to instruct the standing committee on resources development to reschedule its public hearings on Bill 162 in order to give all deputations who wish to make presentations about the proposed changes to the workers' compensation system an opportunity to appear before the committee and express their views."

I have signed my name to it and I agree with them entirely.

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Ms. Bryden: I have a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It reads as follows:

"Whereas the Liberal members of the standing committee on resources development have voted to oppose an opposition motion to hear all deputations who want to appear before the committee on Bill 162;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly to instruct the standing committee on resources development to reschedule its public hearings on Bill 162 in order to give all deputations who wish to make presentations about the proposed changes to the workers' compensation system an opportunity to appear before the committee and express their views."

This petition is signed by 10 people. I will add my signature to it and I support it.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I have a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the Liberal members of the standing committee on resources development have voted to oppose an opposition motion to hear all deputations who want to appear before the committee on Bill 162;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly to instruct the standing committee on resources development to reschedule its public hearings on Bill 162 in order to give all deputations who wish to make presentations about the proposed changes to the workers' compensation system an opportunity to appear before the committee and express their views."

Mr. Philip: I have a petition addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the Liberal members of the standing committee on resources development have voted to oppose an opposition motion to hear all deputations who want to appear before the committee on Bill 162;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly to instruct the standing committee on resources development to reschedule its public hearings on Bill 162 in order to give all deputations who wish to make presentations about the proposed changes to the workers' compensation system an opportunity to appear before the committee and express their views."

It is signed by 12 residents of Ontario and I have also affixed my signature.

Mr. Hampton: I have a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It states:

"Whereas the Liberal members of the standing committee on resources development have voted to oppose an opposition motion to hear all deputations who want to appear before the committee on Bill 162;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly to instruct the standing committee on resources development to reschedule its public hearings on Bill 162 in order to give all deputations who wish to make presentations about the proposed changes to the workers' compensation system an opportunity to appear before the committee and express their views."

This petition has been signed by 10 individuals and I am signing it myself, as required.

REPORT BY COMMITTEE

STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Mr. Elliot from the standing committee on general government reported the following resolution:

That supply in the following amounts and to defray the expenses of the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1989:

Ministry	administration	program,
\$17,990,500;	business practices	program,
\$11,708,500;	technical standards	program,
\$10,574,500;	regulation of horse racing	program,
\$36,378,100;	registration	program,
\$62,067,200;	liquor licence	program,
\$8,615,100.		

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

HIGHWAY TRAFFIC AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Fulton moved first reading of Bill 219, An Act to amend the Highway Traffic Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Speaker: I believe the minister gave an explanation earlier.

CRIME VICTIMS ACT

Mr. Jackson moved first reading of Bill 220, An Act respecting Victims of Crime.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Jackson: I have referenced this bill in the House earlier today, so briefly I would just like to say that this bill combines features found in the New Zealand Victims of Offences Act, the Manitoba Justice for Victims of Crime Act and Terry O'Connor's Bill 40—he was the former member for Oakville—which died on the Orders and Notices paper in 1987.

The bill also introduces certain features that are new and, as far as I know, unique in our Commonwealth. Section 3 of the bill sets out a statement of principles which defines basic rights of crime victims. The rest of the bill deals with compensation and restitution, by facilitating victim law suits, allowing garnishment of prison income and providing for the forfeiture of profits made off books and interviews related to the crimes.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

RETAIL SALES TAX AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre moved third reading of Bill 122, An Act to amend the Retail Sales Tax Act.

Ms. Bryden: As members know, it is somewhat unusual to speak on third reading of a bill, but I feel it is absolutely essential to remind the House of certain very important things about Bill 122, An Act to amend the Retail Sales Tax Act.

This bill provides what amounts to a 15 per cent increase in the seven per cent retail sales tax that we have had in this province for a number of years; one point amounts to a 15 per cent increase. It is part of a \$1.3-billion tax increase which was put on this province in the first budget after the 1987 provincial election. The previous budget, a year before, was a no-tax-increase budget, which seems to me rather playing around with fiscal responsibility.

Hon. Mr. Conway: You do nothing but tell us to spend money. We have to raise it somewhere.

Ms. Bryden: I will go on and tell the member how the money should be raised in just a moment.

Hon. Mr. Conway: You don't want the racetracks' revenue, you don't want the sales tax revenue, you don't want—

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please, government House leader. The member for Beaches-Woodbine has the floor.

Ms. Bryden: This tax is the greatest tax increase in the history of the province. It is estimated to raise almost \$1 billion. It affects the most people in this province, because it affects just about everybody who buys anything. It adds to our tax system, which already has too many consumption taxes, and it is not moving towards greater progressive taxation; it is a move in the direction opposite to a fairer tax system.

1510

It will hit low-income people the most, because it is not progressive. It will hit single individuals, many of whom are on low incomes, because it does not provide for progressive taxation. Yet it also indicates the true colour of the present Liberal government. It talks about itself as progressive. In fact, back in 1985, shortly after the provincial Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) came to power, he was talking about budget possibilities and said, "Let us increase the sales tax by one per cent and thereby reap \$700 million of additional revenue by just changing one little number one little bit." Back in those days it was only \$700 million; now it is almost \$1 billion for one little point.

He went on to say, "However, the attitude expressed by most of the progressive members of this House, except for the Progressive Conservatives, is that sales tax is a revenue that we want to keep under strict control and, if anything, increase what little progressivity there is by improving tax grants and by keeping it as low as is practicable."

Hon. Mr. Conway: Marion, you are one of the most thorough members on fiscal matters this House has ever known.

Ms. Bryden: I am just showing that the real Conservatives are over there.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. I would remind all members that the member for Beaches-Woodbine is the only one who has the floor.

Ms. Bryden: We did get additions to some tax credits in the budget to offset this shocking increase, particularly on the low-income people, but those tax credits were not nearly enough to offset the effect of this big increase on low- and even middle-income people.

For instance, the tax credit for the sales tax went up from \$50 to \$100 for ordinary families, plus \$50 for each child, but for seniors there was no increase in the sales tax rebate. They had been getting \$50 each; in effect, it is now \$50 for all persons whether they are seniors or not, and a small amount for a child. By no means does it

offset the extra costs that a tax of this sort will put on the bills of many households, on municipal costs, on school boards and on all the other things to which the sales tax has been extended over the past four or five years since 1984.

Hon. Mr. Conway: What are your alternatives for the billion dollars? Which programs do you want to cut?

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Ms. Bryden: I am getting to that.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: What did the Liberals say when Frank Miller changed the base for sales tax?

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The member for Beaches-Woodbine—

Ms. Bryden: They opposed it when Frank Miller extended the base in 1984, but now they are extending it even further. Among the things they are extending it to are cable and telephone bills because the federal telecommunications tax is now part of the tax base; so we have tax on tax, and that is going much further than adding just a straight 15 per cent. A lot of people are noticing this tax on tax on their telephone and cable bills. I think it is a very retrogressive step, trying to tax virtually everything that moves except food, and trying to keep extending the base.

I hope the Treasurer will not renege on the agreement that apparently most of the provincial treasurers came to, that they would not go along with Mr. Wilson's national retail sales tax which he wants to add to the provincial taxes, and his plan to roll them all into one, because his idea of the base for such a tax is practically everything that moves. He did not even consider food; while that may have been ruled out, it would mean a further increase in regressive taxes in this province if the Treasurer and this government should go along with that national sales tax.

I am just giving them a warning. They may have a revolt on their hands if they try to go even further with what they are hitting people with under this bill.

Our party has provided a list of extensions that could be added to the sales tax that would tap a lot of revenue which is now escaping tax.

Our Treasury critic, the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren), suggested that the imposition of the retail sales tax on various business services that are currently exempt from the sales tax would raise \$300 million a year. That is part of the Treasurer's answer as to where he is going to get that money. Our critic suggests the services include management consulting, engineering services, architectural services, computer services

and advertising and stock brokerage commissions. That is a step that has been suggested for the past two or three years and nothing has happened on it.

The main thing is that we have to find a government that will return to the principle that consumption taxes are not progressive taxes and that unprogressive taxes are unfair to the majority of the population. This is why we think it is time the Treasurer stopped going in the direction of more and more consumption taxes and began to look at progressive taxes. This is why we feel we must vote against this bill. It is a revelation that the government is sponsoring a tax system that will get more and more unfair and less and less progressive.

Right now, there are still thousands of people below the poverty line who are paying income tax in Ontario, and to add the insult of giving them an extra 15 per cent in sales tax is really a blow to those people. The Treasurer tells us he keeps dropping a few more people off the income tax rolls every year, but then he slaps a 15 per cent sales tax on them.

These are some of the reasons why we must vote against it, and I am taking the time of the House just to tell members that is why our party will not vote for this bill on third reading.

The Deputy Speaker: Questions and comments on the member's statement?

Hon. Mr. Conway: I have a brief comment. I was aroused during the speech of the member for Beaches-Woodbine, who, I repeat, is one of the most senior members here. She is very learned in matters of finance. I have to say I think she is one of the most thoroughgoing fiscal conservatives in this chamber. I said it by way of interjection and I repeat it now in a more official way. She is a thoughtful lady who knows a great deal about high finance and the kind of energy that turns the private sector in the direction of creating new wealth and investment. I defer to her very considerable knowledge and experience in that connection.

I listen to her in her intervention and I really have to think that if she, with all her experience in administration and the world of academe, would honestly believe that some of what she suggests is practical or feasible is to discount her very considerable experience and academic standing. She knows better than most of us just what the pressures are in our day and age. To suggest, as she says, that we should tax the business inputs that the member for Nickel Belt has put forward would, I think, as the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) suggested, excite the Minister of Finance

for Canada as he looks for allies in the national sales tax question.

I just want to say to my friend from Beaches-Woodbine that we listen on an hourly basis to those over there in the official opposition as they tell us, in any given moment or any given day, how we could spend tens or hundreds of additional millions of dollars. That is their job, to tell us how to spend money. But we have the responsibility in office to recognize that there are taxpayers out there who have some tolerance to tax increases, and I am just telling her that we think the tax package that is represented in part by Bill 122 is a fair and equitable one.

The Deputy Speaker: The member's time is up. Do other members wish to comment?

Mr. Harris: Very briefly, I too, on behalf of my party, would like to thank the member for Beaches-Woodbine for reiterating her federal party's support for a national sales tax plan and, on behalf of the provincial party, for indicating a general thrust and direction, that it is indeed an acceptable way to go; recognizing, I am sure, as she does, that it ought to lead, if you can trust politicians these days, and certainly Michael Wilson has made a definitive statement that it will be revenue-neutral and it will lead to a fairness in tax change, not to additional revenue; that indeed the broadening of the base will be accompanied by a lowering of the rate, which will substantially improve our competitiveness in a number of areas.

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I also would like to indicate that our party shares that general thrust in direction as being responsible and forward-looking, and to remind the Liberal members today that their party as well, in the federal House, concurred and agreed that the direction the national sales tax plan wished to go in was good and, at the committee level, received unanimous support of the members of the three major parties in the federal House.

I say to the member for Beaches-Woodbine, I am encouraged that the federal support that was there in the House of Commons is being reflected here. It is important and it is particularly relevant, as we debate this bill and look for fairer ways to raise the revenues that are required to run the affairs of this province.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I want to congratulate the member for Beaches-Woodbine for another fine contribution to a debate in the Legislature.

I heard quite a different thing than, it would appear, the House leader for the government or the House leader for the third party heard. What I

heard was what I have been hearing from our member for Beaches-Woodbine for many years, and that is that we advocate the expenditure of money—we do—but we advocate also raising those funds in a very fair and equitable way.

The difficulty we have had, with budgets that have been presented in Ottawa by Mr. Wilson and by the Treasurer at the provincial level, is that the tax increases have hurt working and middle-income families the most and have had no understanding of what low-income families go through in this province.

This sales tax increase by the current Liberal government hurts people on fixed and low incomes the most. The \$1 billion that will be raised through the 13 per cent or 14 per cent increase in the sales tax will have and has had a devastating effect on low-income families across this province.

All we have wanted the current government to do is to live up to its promises in the past. When Frank Miller tried to increase the sales tax and increase the base of the sales tax, the Liberal Party, when it was in opposition, brought the Legislature to a grinding halt. There were bells. There were filibusters. There were all sorts of tactics by the Liberal finance critic when they were in opposition.

All we would like the Liberal Party to do when it is in government is what it used to advocate while it was the official opposition, and that is fair taxation to the people of the province and a recognition that low-income families need to get a break in our tax system. Instead, the Treasurer and the Liberal government have gone way too far. They are really damaging low- and middle-income families through this unfair tax.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Do other members wish to comment? If not, would the member wish to respond?

Ms. Bryden: I find the idea of fiscal conservatism from the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) rather strange. Is it fiscally conservative to be in favour of a corporation tax increase, which would bring some of that needed revenue in, instead of letting them off scot-free as this government has done?

Is it a fiscally conservative thing to be in favour of a land speculation tax which would bring in millions and also stop the housing turnover? Is it fiscally conservative to be in favour of a tax on business services? I know that business is sacrosanct over there, but it is time that they were properly taxed under this Retail Sales Tax Act.

Is it fiscally conservative to be in favour of a succession duty tax on the large estates, not on the ordinary family farm or small home, but to get revenue there? Many other provinces are still retaining succession duty tax. The Conservatives wiped it out here and the Liberals have not put it back in.

Those are some of the reasons why I think our tax policy will bring fairer taxes. The present trend of the Liberal government will do the exact opposite the way it is going, especially with no increase in tax on corporations, some of which are paying no tax at all, and no increases or trends in the directions I have mentioned.

I would also like to underline again that we do want the province to carry out the proposal of the standing committee on finance and economic affairs that we set up a study of what progressive taxes are.

Mr. Harris: I have a few brief comments I would like to make and put on the record before the Liberals vote in support of this particular part of the biggest tax grab in Ontario's history.

I would like to say to the Treasurer, who is becoming known as Tax the Ripper, that I consider this to be one of the sorriest pieces of legislation we have had to deal with during a most unhappy session for his government.

I know the Treasurer and the government House leader, both keen students of politics, will be familiar with Benjamin Disraeli's description of politics as "this career of plundering and blundering." I cannot think of a more apt description of the record of this government, as it has plundered at nearly every opportunity and blundered nearly every issue it has had to deal with. It blundered free trade, it blundered the Temagami land claims and logging dispute, it blundered parks policy, it blundered the Sunday shopping issue, it blundered auto insurance. It has blundered literally its entire agenda.

Interjection.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Harris: Today we have in front of us Bill 122, a sterling example of Liberal plundering. This bill, the Retail Sales Tax Amendment Act, could just as easily be entitled an act to abuse Ontario consumers. Its clear intent is to make Ontario consumers pay for the excesses of the Liberal government in this province.

This bill, which will raise an additional \$1 billion in a full year, is the major part of the Treasurer's \$1.3-billion, smash-and-grab budget that he brought before us last spring. We said at that time—and I repeat and say again today—that this tax increase is unnecessary, inflationary and

regressive. I think the Treasurer himself, who does not appear to be in the House today, would agree with me on at least two of those three points.

Specifically, I think the Treasurer would agree that the tax increase proposed by Bill 122 is inflationary and has added about half a percentage point to the increase in the consumer price index in Ontario. That is wrong and that is regressive. It has added to the tax burden on low-income people at a time when we are supposedly considering major reforms and changes in the social assistance system in Ontario.

I would love to hear what the Premier (Mr. Peterson) is saying to his counterparts from the other provinces today in Ottawa when they complain about the Bank of Canada's interest rate policy, a policy supposedly designed to contain inflation and deal with pressures generated by the Ontario economy. I would love to hear what the Premier, whose own fiscal policies have contributed to the inflation problem, is saying to soothe his friends, who see their growth opportunities limited by high interest rates. I doubt that he is telling them they have to pay so that his government can prosper. Maybe he is telling them about some of his "sweet headaches."

As for the necessity of this tax increase, I would simply point out to the Treasurer that over the past three fiscal years his government has collected windfall revenues of nearly \$2 billion, and without increasing one single tax in his last budget. If he had not increased any of them, in his last budget alone revenues would have increased by 8.2 per cent—essentially double the rate of inflation—or \$2.8 billion. That was the additional revenue coming in without any tax increases relative to last year's levels. None of this, however, was enough to satisfy this government's voracious appetite for tax dollars and hence this bill, as part of a package, with its 15 per cent increase in the retail sales tax.

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It is legislation like this which causes us to ask, "What does this government have against the consumer?" Let's just take as an example a typical two-income family of four where one person earns \$35,000 a year and the other earns \$18,000 or so. Let's take that fairly typical family. Even if they do not make any major purchases as a result of this bill, they will pay an additional \$153 in sales taxes this year.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Who's going to pay for the new hospital in North Bay?

Mr. Harris: If they go out and buy a new car—

Hon. Mr. Conway: Who's going to pay for the waterfront improvement in North Bay?

Mr. Harris: I appreciate the interjections because it tells me that I am hitting a very sensitive nerve among those Liberal backbenchers who are afraid to speak up and put their thoughts on the record, but indeed would rather react to mine. I understand that.

Let's say this typical family goes out and buys a new car for \$14,000. They will pay an additional \$140 in taxes as a result of this bill. After that they can start to pay the higher gasoline tax of the Treasurer and his higher government-improved insurance rates.

If they want to buy a new house, they will not only have to pay the Liberals' increased land transfer tax, which has tripled or quadrupled since they have taken office, if we look at the budget documents, but they can expect to pay between \$1,500 to \$2,000 additional for their home as a direct result of this bill alone. That is not counting the additional \$900 that will be added to the price of an average house because this bill expands the retail sales tax base to include ready-mix concrete and asphalt. That is not counting that one that is in there as well.

I find these to be pretty peculiar tax policies for a government which says, "We put housing first and homes now." I find it very strange because the reality is that it is the Treasury first and taxes now. That is what we have seen demonstrated by this government. It is a strange thing indeed to read in the papers of the Treasurer's concern about the probable impact of a national sales tax on new home buyers. That was last fall during the federal election. The Treasurer had a concern, he said, about the probable impact of a national sales tax on new home buyers, and his own government has so gleefully profited in the housing market.

Of course, the Treasurer and the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Grandmaitre) have not finished with our average couple yet. Bill 122 has not finished with them yet. Every time they buy some new furniture or a new appliance, they will pay 15 per cent more tax because of this bill. Every time they pay their phone bill, they will pay more tax because of this bill. The government, in its desperation to leave not a stone unturned and to leave nothing untaxed, has imposed a tax on a tax and will now tax the federal tax on the phone bill.

If they have any money left over, they will probably have to spend it on increased municipal taxes, which will be hiked to offset the fact that Bill 122 will run up the provincial retail sales tax

bill for Ontario municipalities by anywhere from \$100,000 to \$480,000 this year, at a time when the government has frozen unconditional grants and frozen road transfers to municipalities. This bill alone has added that tax burden to municipalities.

We know that the Liberal caucus will pass Bill 122. We know that we do not have the numbers and we cannot stop this fiscal horror from becoming law. We know that they are sitting over there counting their additional billions with one eye on the calendar and thinking that time will heal all wallets. I do not think it will happen this time.

The people of Ontario will have their turn to vote on Bill 122. My friends opposite should remember that the people of Ontario will have their opportunity to vote on Bill 122, just as they and I have our opportunity today to vote on Bill 122. I think they should remember that.

I want to conclude by saying two things. When problems appear, this government's approach appears to be one described in three words: ready, fire, aim. Every problem this government has looked at it seems to have approached in that way: ready, fire and then aim. There is no vision. There is no long-term goal. There is no understanding of what they are doing with one hand and the effect it is having on the other, and it is not responsible.

If they do not like that summing up, I have another one for them. Perhaps the Liberal fiscal policy could be summed up like this: If it moves, tax it; if it keeps moving, regulate it and if it stops moving, subsidize it.

An hon. member: I can't follow the logic of that.

Mr. Harris: I think the member should be able to follow the logic of that, if he thinks about area after area after area of policy concern, if he thinks about housing, if he thinks about this bill alone and the taxes that are increased, if he thinks about how they have taxed the housing market and driven affordable housing out of the reach of people, and then if he thinks, "That didn't work, that didn't drive everybody out of housing completely," then he thinks about the regulations that they brought in. Finally they brought it to its knees and it stopped.

Now they had only one other solution: not to look at what they had caused by the taxation, not to look at what is being caused by the regulations; in fact they had only one other choice, and that was to subsidize it. If members look at an affordable house or home or apartment or dwelling that is being built in this province today,

it is being built with subsidization, because they taxed everything, then they regulated everything and now it is left to government.

If members think about policy area after policy area, about what is happening in the insurance industry—they tax it, then they regulate it—and think about what may happen two, three, four, five, six, seven years from now. Just think about the insurance industry, about whether the only way is going to be then to subsidize it.

That appetite for tax dollars fuels itself. The direction that this government is going in is wrong, and my party will be voting against this bill on third reading. We have taken a few moments today, in an unusual move on third reading, to speak up once again and to take some time in debate to remind those who will be voting very shortly on this particular piece of legislation that they are wrong. They are proceeding in the wrong direction at just about every opportunity that they have.

I started by talking about plundering and blundering. I ask members to reflect on the blunders that this government has made and the plundering that it has had to come up with to pay for its mistakes.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I just want to say two things quickly. First, no member in this Legislature is as persistent in his demands that the government spend money in his constituency as our good friend the member for Nipissing. He stands up and he demands, in sometimes the most unbecomingly strident tones that one could imagine, that vast sums be appropriated to new courthouses, new hospitals, four lanes of highways and all the rest.

To give my friend the member for Nipissing his due, he has not been without some measure of success. When it comes to the request for, the demand for and the application of public funds to his constituency, none of us in this chamber needs to take a back seat to the member for Nipissing.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: But where do we get the money?

Hon. Mr. Conway: My friend the member for Niagara Falls asks where we get the money. Of course, the member for Nipissing would like to have one believe that there is some kind of social credit out there that could be applied to meet the need and avoid the pain.

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My second comment will be a remembrance of that day in June 1985 when my good friend the member for Nipissing was over here. Talk about

plunder and blunder. For those of us who remember the last days of the ancien régime, the member for Nipissing sat dutifully beside our friend the former member for Nipissing and there was not anything they were not prepared to consider to hold on to their seals of office. So I say to my friend for Nipissing, when he was over here, he was not shy about what he was prepared to do by way of raising taxes or spending money:

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you. The member's time is up.

Ms. Bryden: I want to clarify what both the member for Nipissing and the member for Renfrew North appeared to indicate, that the national New Democratic Party is favouring Mr. Wilson's national sales tax or value added tax. In committee meetings, they may have said, "We might like to hear more about this."

Hon. Mr. Conway: Oh, here comes the great NDP fence-sit.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Wilson has not clarified what he means or what he is planning to do. When the second shoe drops, we will then be able to evaluate what he is proposing.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Well, there is no one who sat on a fence on this better than Nixon.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Ms. Bryden: When we get a chance to study it and see that it will greatly increase the base and greatly increase the regressivity of taxes in this country, I am almost positive that our NDP caucus will not support that. But we have not taken a position on it yet. We believe in examining things and debating them in our caucuses first.

Mr. Villeneuve: I too want to compliment my colleague the member for Nipissing and refer to the glowing terms in which the government House leader referred to the way he represents his constituents. That is something I am sure will go down and be read by numerous people throughout the province.

Of course, our House leader, as he usually is, was right again. It is the situation that from 1985, when this government took over, until now more than \$12 billion in additional taxes, money, funds was taken from the people of Ontario. Indeed, they are looking for more, tax upon tax upon tax.

It is always interesting to find out where some of this taxation money goes.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Villeneuve: They sure do not like the facts, Mr. Speaker. You have noticed that. As I was saying, an additional \$12 billion has gone into the coffers of this government in less than four years. Where has some of this money gone? There are some 8,000 additional civil servants.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Villeneuve: I can go back to my riding. In the county of Glengarry, for instance, we have a business—

Mr. Ballinger: When are you leaving?

Mr. Villeneuve: I am not leaving. I represent them well here. I go home on the weekend and I meet them down there.

But in the county of Glengarry, for instance, the Ministry of the Environment is holding up a privately owned and privately funded \$200,000 project. All we are waiting for is the green light to give them the okay so that they can go in and do the work they have to do. The particular operation I am talking about is a retail gas station—\$5.3 million of government taxes come from that particular operation—and the Ministry of the Environment is preventing it from running its business.

The Deputy Speaker: The member's time is up. The member for York Mills.

Mr. J. B. Nixon: Listening to the member for Nipissing, I could not help but remark to myself that in the 42 years of Progressive Conservative rule we saw the retail sales tax go from zero to seven per cent, we saw the budget deficit go from zero to over \$30 billion and we saw the deficit in funding, the failure to build schools, roads and hospitals, go way, way up to a point where it is immeasurable.

Yet the new Treasurer, I suggest, with one minor adjustment in the Retail Sales Tax Act has been able to reverse that trend. The budgetary deficit for the province is now going down; the deficit in underfunding is going down. For the first time in a long time, necessary roads, schools, hospitals and social programs are being funded.

If the member for Nipissing does not want that to take place, he should stand up and say so, make it clear for the record that he is opposed to funding necessary social programs, necessary roads, necessary hospitals and necessary schools. He does not want to invest in the future. He does not want to invest in our physical and human capital. He should make it clear that that is what he believes in.

The Deputy Speaker: For a few seconds, the member for Simcoe East.

Mr. McLean: I have not got long enough, but I want to ask the member for Nipissing: Is this the government that brought in the extra cost for ready-mix for building houses? Is this the government that brought in double the executive assistants' salaries? Is this the government that pretty nearly doubled the deputy ministers' salaries? Is this the government that put its administration costs up 35 per cent? Those are all costs.

The Deputy Speaker: The member's time is up. Does the member for Nipissing wish to respond?

Mr. Harris: If I might take a couple of minutes, as is my right, to respond, I will say to the member for Beaches-Woodbine that I enjoyed her original comments more than the two-minute summation as she looked at my remarks. I am disappointed that she appears now to be aligning herself with the Treasurer in this ambivalent, do-nothing approach. "Yes, I like it; but maybe no; yes."

I was proud of her comments originally when she made a strong, forceful statement, in my view, that the direction she was going in was in total support of her federal colleagues who supported the principle of a national sales tax plan and a broadening of that base. Now, however, I am disappointed to see she is a little more like the government House leader and the government Treasurer, in which case they want to waffle on the whole thing.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Harris: I also want to refer to the comments that were made by the government House leader, the member for Renfrew North when he indicated how hard I fight on behalf of my riding. I make no apologies to this House for how hard I do fight.

On the other hand, let me say this. When I see \$500 million to hire 9,000 new civil servants, I say to myself that I think maybe Nipissing could use a few million dollars here in direct programs instead of fattening up the civil service. I think maybe we should look at delivering services to people, as opposed to fattening the salaries and substantially increasing the numbers of political aides, as this government does.

The first priority is to look after my own office, then see how we can increase those salaries, then see how many more we can hire. Let's hire some more civil servants to carry out

all the studies we have to do, because we do not know what to do, so we have to study it. I do not apologize for saying Nipissing is entitled to its small little piece of that share, before all that money is frittered away.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: I have not heard a new thing today. I have listened to my friends the member for Beaches-Woodbine and the member for Nipissing. It was a duplication of their comments on second reading.

But I would like to remind the House, especially my friend the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (Mr. Villeneuve) and my friend the member for Nipissing who were talking about the biggest tax grab in this province, that back in 1966, the Tories increased the sales tax from three to five per cent, which is a 66 per cent increase. Back in 1975, they increased it again by 40 per cent. Back in 1978, they increased it from four to seven per cent, and that is a 75 per cent increase.

Maybe I should be asking the opposition, especially the Tories, what they have done with those fat increases. They have not built roads or bridges. They have not improved our infrastructures. They have not improved our education system. When we came to power we had to, let's say, do a little catch-up job, because of their negligence of the past.

Now we have increased the retail sales tax by one per cent, trying to provide northern Ontario with the needed roads and the needed schools and also to transfer jobs to northern Ontario—1,700 new jobs in northern Ontario—and they are asking us to do more. We are trying to do more with less. This is what we are actually doing.

1550

My friend the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry should not criticize about eastern Ontario, because he found out on Saturday where eastern Ontario stands in this province with these additional dollars. Just in schools, in education, he has seen more progress in eastern Ontario and his own riding than he has seen in the last 42 years.

In the last budget, the Ministry of Colleges and Universities was increased by 7.5 per cent. The Ministry of Community and Social Services was increased by 14.6 per cent—that is not bad—the Ministry of Education by 6.2 per cent, the Ministry of the Environment by 9.2 per cent and the Ministry of Health by 9.8 per cent. I think the additional dollars this additional percentage of retail sales tax will bring to this government will ensure every Ontarian is well served.

We have done more for housing. We have increased the housing budget by more than 30 per cent.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. One member at a time, please.

Mr. Wildman: You haven't built any houses; you have just increased the budget.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: That is not exactly true. We have built more houses. Right now, the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek) is in Ottawa announcing close to 700 more units in nonprofit.

I think we are investing our dollars wisely. Also, due to the federal limitation in the growth of transfer payments, especially for health and post-secondary schools, this province will lose \$1 billion. Opposition members are asking us how we can build more schools, and yet the federal government cut back on the transfer payments by \$1 billion. I think that is their answer.

We will continue to do more with less, and also provide better services in this province for many years to come with less money.

The Deputy Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Call in the members.

Mr. Harris: Mr. Speaker, I think we can quickly arrive at some form of unanimous consent to stack this vote until Wednesday.

Hon. Mr. Conway: By previous agreement, we have agreed to stack any votes arising out of the—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I just got so excited. We had agreed to stack any votes arising out of the third reading debates this afternoon until 5:45 Wednesday afternoon.

The Deputy Speaker: Is there unanimous consent to this proposal?

Some hon members: Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you for letting me know.

Vote stacked.

WATER TRANSFER CONTROL ACT

Hon. Mr. Kerrio moved third reading of Bill 175, An Act respecting transfers of Water.

Mr. Wildman: Just briefly, I want to reiterate the concern we on this side of the House have

with regard to the inadequate job of drafting the legislation in the first place, the farce we all experienced when we had to point out to the minister that a bill that purported to prevent the export of water was in fact a bill that was set up to regulate the export of water and to gain revenue for the provincial Treasury through that export.

When we suggested an amendment in the House, the minister said yes, he would amend it, but then tried to maintain that the bill was not really designed to regulate the export of water to the United States or outside of this country, but rather outside of this province into other provinces such as Manitoba. Of course, we have been exporting water to Winnipeg since 1913 without any such legislation and we do not need it in order to continue doing it.

We have another example, which we will be discussing at second reading this afternoon, of a government that just does not know how to draft legislation. We will see the introduction by the minister of some 45 pages of amendments to a bill he has set before this House. I wonder if this is an indication of the fact that the same people may have drafted both pieces of legislation. I wonder too if that person continues to work in the ministry or for the Ministry of the Attorney General. I would hope not.

I also want to reiterate in regard to Bill 175 that we remain unconvinced by the government's rather circuitous arguments that were made on second reading and particularly at the committee stage with regard to the question of jurisdiction and constitutional jurisdiction over the regulation of the taking of water from the Great Lakes, which is internationally regulated by the International Joint Commission through treaty and agreement between the government of Canada and the government of the United States.

For this provincial jurisdiction to try to argue that as a provincial government we can do something to prevent a state government from taking water from the Great Lakes if it has the agreement of the International Joint Commission is just plain ridiculous. That commission is responsible for determining lake levels and water quality in the Great Lakes. That commission is not going to be overruled by some piece of legislation passed in Ontario.

As well, the minister argued, if I got his argument at committee correctly, that this legislation is to stop some transfer of water from the Great Lakes to the United States by a sort of pipeline coming from, if you use the example of Lake Ontario, the north shore of Lake Ontario across to New York state. But of course it does

not have anything to do with New York state taking water out of the south shore of Lake Ontario. How ridiculous. Whoever briefed the minister on that argument also should no longer be working for the minister.

Mr. Pollock: I really think this is a ridiculous bill, because after all, it states that everybody has to ask the minister for permission to take water out of the Great Lakes basin. That is a little ridiculous because the Americans can go ahead and take it out regardless. I have mentioned that before. I really feel we are just wasting our time here on this bill. I firmly believe this bill was brought in for political reasons only, and I think even the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) would agree on that. I just want to put that on the record.

1600

Mr. Harris: I have a few notes I cannot find, but I think I can remember them. I do not think I can forget the day, in this Legislature, when we went through this clause by clause, some two weeks ago. Obviously, and I am sure, in the history of legislatures anywhere in the world, it was one of the most embarrassing days for the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio).

This bill is a silly bill. This is a bill that wasted time, and dollars, money that could have been spent, as the government House leader said, on the new general hospital for Nipissing or on any one of thousands of worthwhile projects. To spend staff time, to spend House time, to spend the amount of time that has been wasted on a silly, supercilious piece of legislation—to think that we debated this before the federal election to make some grandiose statement that this government opposed the sale of Ontario water, presumably, at that time, to the United States, when the bill was so poorly drafted, was so poorly worded that the ruse was so easy to see through; in fact, it was a bill, when originally presented to us, that said: "Our water is for sale. Here is how we will arrive at the cost." That was the signal it sent out.

At that time, it obviously backfired if it was designed to have any impact on the discussion of the national agenda before the people of this province and indeed before the people of Canada. They saw through it. They said, "What a silly argument." It reflected poorly on the Liberals' federal colleagues at the time, because by association people said, "A Liberal is a Liberal, and if this is the kind of silliness they are going to enter into on this free trade debate, then obviously they do not deserve the support of the electorate across this country." Indeed, that was demonstrated here in Ontario.

I also want to say that then to come forward with this bill and try to cover that mistake by implying that was not the real reason—"We are really serious about this; we actually want to pass this piece of legislation"—and two weeks ago when we entered into clause-by-clause and really got down to "Does this bill do anything to stop water transfers to the United States?" the only solution we got has been mentioned by my colleague, my fellow northern Ontario parliamentarian the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman): "If the Americans want to take water out of the Great Lakes and build a one-foot pipeline, this bill can do nothing about that. But if they want to spend \$1 billion or so and run a pipeline all the way over to the Ontario side where we have jurisdiction, by golly, this bill will stop that."

What nonsense. That was after we all agreed the International Joint Commission has the first jurisdiction anyway.

Then there was the second aspect on that day, when the minister talked about—after the amendments were brought in, this message sent a signal out that if you want to build a \$1-billion pipeline up here to get water, this bill gives the Ontario government some say, I suppose, albeit not a say that means very much and not primary jurisdiction, but it gives some say. We found that out.

We also found out that when it comes to other provinces or other jurisdictions, the water is for sale, and this is the process you go through if another province wants to buy Ontario water. This bill now puts a mechanism in place and sends out a signal to other provinces and other jurisdictions within Canada and to Ontarians themselves, that our water is for sale.

Mr. McLean: Shame.

Mr. Harris: It is a shame. I do not think that is the message we want to send out. I think that is wrong. I think this piece of legislation is a silly, silly piece of legislation, one of the silliest this government has brought forward. Perhaps the Aggregate Resources Act will supersede it, I do not know. I found out today, an hour before we were to debate this, that there are now 40 amendments to the Aggregate Resources Act that we have not had time to properly analyse and study. Maybe that bill was just as poorly drafted as this one was originally.

It is a sorry day. We will oppose this legislation. We will stand and vote against it. We think it has no place in the Ontario Legislature.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: It is a little bit of a disappointment, I suppose, that the New Democratic Party is not willing to do anything it might

to support a bill that would cause us to be able to have some control over water within our boundaries. I want to tell all the members of the Legislature that we have researched it well and we do indeed have control over the waters within the boundaries of Ontario, even though there are other responsibilities of the federal government jointly with the International Joint Commission.

The main message I want to convey to the aspirant to the leadership of the defunct party is that if what he says has any kind of significance, he should go and talk to his federal counterparts, because they put exactly the same kind of bill to the federal House and did not see fit to protect water, to remove it from being described as a good.

The federal government let that bill die on the order paper. If it did not have any significance and should not have been put there, which is the argument being made by this honourable member, why did the federal people who were charged with the responsibility of protecting Canada and its water fail to do so?

We feel we are doing something most appropriate. The way it has been described by the two members from the other parties who are talking about the bill—of course, they are going to try to make it look ridiculous. They are going to try to do many things that are not at all appropriate. In the wonderful tradition of the British parliamentary system, they are supposed to do that, but generally to do it with some respect for and some understanding of the issue.

What we are saying, and I will say it again specifically, is that within the bounds of Ontario, in order for water to be exported, we do have control. We are ready to fight for that. If there is some jurisdiction in the United States of America that wants our water, obviously we are going to say that under this bill water cannot be exported.

Believe me, in the free trade agreement the Americans were looking for our water, for our energy and for all the good things that are Canadian and Ontarian. The two parties opposite do not want to see fit to protect it in any way they can. Be it on their heads, because that is what this government is doing. From day one there was no misunderstanding. I accepted that the leader of the official opposition suggested I should put a few amendments in there.

I was very much prepared to do it, because nothing changed from the day we had first reading, to protect a very valuable natural resource for the people of Canada and for the people of Ontario. I do not hesitate to support this bill. I hope that those people on the other side, if

they take a good look at where their responsibility lies, will be prepared to do the same thing.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. M. C. Ray): That concludes the debate on Bill 175. I will therefore put the question.

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Vote stacked.

1610

AGGREGATE RESOURCES ACT

Hon. Mr. Kerrio moved second reading of Bill 170, An Act to revise several Acts related to Aggregate Resources.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I think again we have a very important bill that should move forward, because we have been examining the consolidation of the aggregates acts for a good number of years—I think it has been some 12 years or so—in developing an act that would take in many areas of concern. I think this act consolidates all current legislation dealing with aggregate extraction, an industry vital to the social and economic wellbeing of the province.

The act promotes rehabilitation of pits and quarries and places greater emphasis on the environmental considerations. The act also improves the ability of the ministry to manage aggregate production and gives municipalities a greater voice in licensing. Municipalities will also have the opportunity to receive financial compensation for the cost of pit and quarry operations.

Today I am proposing amendments to make Bill 170 one of the foremost pieces of legislation of its kind. The Aggregate Resources Act will work hand in hand with other environmental legislation, such as the Environmental Protection Act. In this way, we will ensure the orderly development of aggregate resources in Ontario while addressing adverse effects on our society and the environment.

I introduced Bill 170 in the House for first reading on June 27, 1988. At that time, I invited comment from all parties affected by this legislation. Since then, my ministry staff has met with various interest groups, including the Aggregate Producers Association of Ontario, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Conservation Council of Ontario, the Ontario Good Roads Association, the Ontario Road Builders' Association, the Niagara Escarpment Commission, the Canadian Land Reclamation

Association and the Foundation for Aggregate Studies.

Written submissions from a wide range of interest groups support this legislation in principle and their comments have helped us improve the act. One of the improvements is an amendment to Bill 170 that will change the definition of "environment" in the new act so that it contains the same terms for the environment as the Environmental Protection Act.

Bill 170 improves the ability of this government to get tough with those who do not respect the environment or the law. Therefore, I am proposing an increase in the maximum daily fine to \$30,000 from \$5,000. The bill also empowers the courts to recover financial gains obtained through violations of the act. In addition, it empowers my ministry to suspend the licence or permit of any company that violates the act.

Another amendment requires applicants to post signs on sites to better inform the public about a proposal to establish a new pit or quarry on the given site.

Many groups have complained about the excessive use of wayside pits. Today I am proposing amendments to place more stringent controls and clear limits on how those temporary pits are used. One of these proposed amendments will allow regulations to be created to further control the issuance and use of wayside permits.

In addition, an amendment is proposed that will require a development permit from the Niagara Escarpment Commission before a wayside permit can be issued in the Niagara Escarpment. This will afford an opportunity for public review and appeal. My colleague the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Eakins) has agreed to amend the regulations under the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act to establish the necessary process for issuing development permits for wayside pits.

While more than 40 amendments will be proposed to Bill 170 in committee, only 17 are amendments in substance to address concerns. Many of the others are necessitated by cross-referencing in Bill 170 or simply clarifying intent. My parliamentary assistant, the member for Durham-York (Mr. Ballinger), will be introducing these amendments on our behalf during committee review.

Some of the public comments do not relate directly to Bill 170, so we will address them through our regulations or our administrative policies and procedures.

More areas of Ontario will be designated under the Aggregate Resources Act. These designa-

tions will be made under the regulations after the act comes into effect. We will undertake a three-year program to phase in new areas. My ministry will discuss the suitability and appropriate timing of these designations with the affected municipalities.

A citizens' guide to Bill 170 will detail the application and approvals process, roles and responsibilities of municipalities and the province and opportunities for public input.

These proposed amendments are the result of careful public consultation and review. All interested groups support Bill 170 in principle and accept that there will be some compromises, which will be reflected in the amendments.

Bill 170 greatly improves my ministry's ability to manage this province's aggregate resources. I urge all members to support swift passage of this bill and to examine it to the degree that we have shared with interested citizens and users of this very important natural resource.

Mr. Wildman: I noted that the minister claimed that all of the groups that have been consulted "recognize that there must be some amendments and compromise as the committee considers the legislation"—I think that is the way he termed it—but generally they are all in favour. I really wonder if that is actually the case.

I understand that while a number of groups have indicated that this is better than what was first introduced, and it was probably better than the Pits and Quarries Control Act, which nobody agreed was any good, there are a number of groups—I think of the Foundation for Aggregate Studies—that have indicated some serious reservations with the legislation. I wonder why that was not recognized.

For instance, the purpose of the bill itself is open to real question. Despite the number of only 17 substantive amendments—I think "only" is an interesting term to use—the definition and purpose of the bill remains rather weak. It says, "to minimize adverse impact on the environment in respect of aggregate operations." It does not explain how this is to happen or what the purpose is. It would have been much better to have a clearer purpose, and I will be speaking to that at length later.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: On a point of clarification, Mr. Speaker: I would like to determine if indeed the minister intends to have this bill sent to committee for public hearings, because I certainly have two townships that are very dramatically affected by it; that is the townships of Puslinch and Erin. Both of them are extremely dependent on the aggregate industry to determine

the future of the townships. When I say they are dependent on it, I mean they are dependent on what the aggregate industry does to the townships and what they can do with the rest of the land.

I asked the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) the other day about mining below the water level, and he said there is no problem; you could rehabilitate. I would hope the minister would address that in the hearings and tell the townships how they can rehabilitate.

Also, I would like to point out that one of the problems we have with the aggregates act is that some of the decisions that should be made in cabinet are being sloughed off to the townships to determine what really should be ministerial and cabinet decisions. Certainly the township of Puslinch feels this way. They are faced with a \$250,000 Ontario Municipal Board hearing simply because they cannot get rulings from the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley), the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio), the Minister of Agriculture and Food and the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Mr. Ballinger: Not true.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: Since the parliamentary assistant is so vocal now, maybe he will be able to answer some of the questions at the appropriate time. One thing I would like from the minister today is the assurance that this bill will be sent out to committee for public hearings before it is passed on to third reading.

1620

Mr. Pollock: I want to mention the fact that this bill is a vast improvement over Bill 175, so at least the minister is heading in the right direction. I would like to mention that I met with the ministry people. The minister is well aware of this. He asked me to discuss the bill with my caucus members, which I did, and they definitely wanted this bill to go to the standing committee on resources development.

I understand now that the government itself has some 40 amendments, 17 of them more or less important. I have no problem with the bill's going to committee, and I thank the minister for making that commitment. I am glad that one of those amendments is, I believe, that the Niagara Escarpment Commission will have the right to stop any development that is going to affect the Niagara Escarpment, because the escarpment is a landmark that runs right across the province. It is an important landmark; therefore, I hope that this amendment will carry and that there will be no problems in that respect. I just wanted to put those comments on the record.

Mr. Villeneuve: I have a few words pertaining to Bill 170 as it is being presented. I think the fact that some 40 amendments are being brought forth is indicative of the concerns that all of the people involved here in Ontario have. I know the Aggregates Producers Association of Ontario has great problems even with the amendments that are being brought forth.

The member for Durham-York says this is an open government. They say they are looking at some of the problems, but they need double-vision glasses. They say they are listening to the people, but they are not hearing at all. They proved that on Bill 113 and Bill 114 when, after hearing presentation after presentation, they went their own way. The Premier (Mr. Peterson) told us that the intent of the bill was not to be changed, even though 90 per cent of the people who made presentations were not in favour of what was happening.

I hope the Minister of Natural Resources, in this particular instance, does pay attention and listens to some of the presentations that will be forthcoming from the municipalities, the aggregate producers and some of the consumers. It was the same government as the one that saw fit to tack on an eight per cent sales tax—not one per cent—on many of the aggregate byproducts such as premixed concrete, hot-mix pavement and the like; so it is of great concern to the municipalities in Ontario, to the producers and indeed to the construction industry. It is part of the base—the aggregates industry—to construction and to many of the good things that happen in Ontario. I hope the minister and the government listen.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I want to assure the critic for the third party and the member for Wellington (Mr. J. M. Johnson) that it is certainly our intention that the bill go to standing committee, so that it will in fact have a presentation and there will be an opportunity for anyone to share with us the intent of this bill.

To my critic, the new father—last week I heard about it; congratulations—I say I would like him to realize that the main purpose of the bill is one that I think everyone in the Legislature can support, the fact being that rehabilitation is one of the highest and best priorities of the bill, so we will be sure that whenever there is extraction done we will rehabilitate it in a way that is acceptable to the general public.

I have some model rehabilitated places down in my area. Just to touch on one where there is some concern about below-water-level extraction, Mr. Speaker, I want to tell you that when it was rehabilitated they built a new golf course on

the site, they planted a new orchard on the site, and they have stocked it with salmon, which are flourishing in that beautiful, clean water. It does provide an opportunity, because with the Minister of Agriculture and Food we have a commitment at the University of Guelph that we are going to look at the potential that there is for a very new opportunity for aquaculture people to get involved.

Having said that, and committing ourselves to hearings where there will be more input and committing ourselves to raising some funds for the municipalities that are impacted, which was not done before, to be able to provide for those people who have their roads broken up around those sites where we are going to have extraction, which gives a very good base for them to be able to maintain the impact of extraction, I think, considering everything in the bill, I would feel very comfortable, and I think the members will, in supporting this bill.

Mr. Wildman: I would like at the outset to make some comments about the process involved.

The minister will recall that a number of years ago in this House the previous government introduced amendments to the Pits and Quarries Control Act. At that time, that bill went out to committee and there were extensive committee hearings. The Liberal Party was in opposition at that time, as was ours, and there were numerous amendments introduced to that piece of legislation, something in the neighbourhood of 150 amendments, I suppose. I suspect that is why the minister says “only” when he says 17.

The bill, during a minority situation, was substantially changed in committee, so I guess the government of the day decided not to proceed and nothing happened.

The minister will know that I, like other members, have been very concerned about the need to bring the Pits and Quarries Control Act up to date and into the 1990s and that I have encouraged the minister to proceed with amendments. As a matter of fact, I have raised a number of questions in the House regarding when the government was going to be introducing legislation.

When the government was at the point of introducing the bill on first reading, the minister kindly invited me and my staff to meet with him and officials of his ministry to discuss the bill and what concerns we might have and to answer questions and to indicate what the government intended to do to proceed. I know the minister was eager to have the bill proceeded with. We

raised a number of concerns, as did other organizations across the province when the minister sent it out for input from interested parties.

We had other meetings, and the last meeting we had was in January, last month, with the minister and his officials. At that time we looked at the bill and indicated some concerns again. The officials indicated that there were more changes to come; that is, the government was indeed going to be introducing amendments.

We said that we would reserve a final judgement on what position we would take on second reading, pending the publication of the amendments, so that we would be able to analyse what the bill would look like after the government had introduced its amendments that were required, or at least the government considered required.

We indicated at that time that we would obviously need some time to analyse the amendments, and we were assured, I want to remind the House, back in January that we would receive the amendments in good time.

As a matter of fact, it was suggested at that time that the House might be dealing with this bill the subsequent Thursday, and we were assured that we would receive the amendments by Monday. In other words, we would have four days to consider the amendments, to notify the ministry if we had further concerns and to make a decision as to how we would respond to the government's proposed changes. We did not get the amendments. There was a delay in the House proceedings, so when we did not receive the amendments, we did not consider it that serious because the government and the House were dealing with other matters.

1630

However, I was informed by our House leader that, in his discussions with the government House leader and the House leader for the third party, the government included this bill as one of its must-have-before-the-end-of-the-session pieces of legislation. I understood that, because this is an important piece of legislation, but if the government considered it as important as the minister has said we should have been able to get the amendments well in advance.

We expected we would. As the minister kindly referred to, I was otherwise engaged over the last couple of weeks and have not been in the House. But I got a message last Friday in my constituency office that the government hoped to be introducing this bill for debate on second reading this week, today. Although I was not intending to

be here today, I came to participate in this debate.

When I arrived I went to my researcher, Linda Pim, who has worked very hard on this legislation, and said, "Have we received the amendments?" She said, "Yes, we have, but we received them this morning." Instead of four days in advance, we got them a little over four hours in advance. And not just a few amendments. These are the amendments—45 pages of amendments to a bill which is, in total, 45 pages. We have one amendment for each page of the bill.

The minister has said that he believes only 17—"only" again—are substantive amendments; the other ones deal with wording and more clear definition and so on, these kinds of things. But as a person who has genuinely attempted to participate in this process in a co-operative way with the government, because I recognize that many, many groups on both sides of the issue have been waiting for this legislation to be debated in the House, I frankly resent being presented with this many amendments the day we are going to debate them.

The minister may say, as his executive assistant apparently has said, "We're not actually debating the amendments today; we're debating second reading." That is technically quite true, but when you have this many amendments, you are changing the bill; you are changing what the bill says, not just a few sections. If you are going to debate the principle of the bill on second reading, when you have this many changes being introduced by the government which has drafted the legislation it is unacceptable for the opposition to receive the amendments the day we are going to debate the bill, particularly when we had been given a commitment by the minister and his officials that we would receive the amendments well in advance.

When we asked for an explanation, the minister's executive assistant's excuse, and I use that word advisedly, was that the ministry wanted to wait until its backgrounder was prepared, so that it could give the amendments and the backgrounder to us as a package. That really is silly. The fact is we could have looked at the amendments and analysed the import of those amendments without this backgrounder. We did not need the backgrounder. We did not need it today, frankly. The minister basically read a synopsis of the backgrounder as his opening statement. What has taken place is unacceptable and I think it indicates that perhaps the government is not taking as seriously the co-operative

approach we thought it was taking and certainly that we were taking, in preparing for this debate.

Frankly, I would like to know when these amendments were actually prepared, when they were ready and why we did not get them when they were ready. There is nothing particularly secretive in these amendments, so I do not see why we could not have had them before today. In the short time that we have had the amendments, we have looked at them and have tried to analyse them. As the minister has indicated, many of the amendments are minor. Some of them are just housekeeping. Frankly, that is a disappointment for us because we had hoped that we would see some major, substantive changes in this legislation that would meet many of the criticisms that have been levelled at the bill as first drafted.

Neither the purpose nor the philosophy of this bill has been amended. As I said in my earlier remarks, the minister has claimed, and he claims in his backgrounder, that "every interest group offered support for Bill 170." I do not think that tells nearly the whole story.

I mentioned in my earlier comments the brief of the Foundation for Aggregate Studies, where it said: "Casual reading of the new act at first suggests that it would provide environmental protection, proper rehabilitation and a resolution of many of the problems plaguing the present act. Closer analysis reveals that the act has serious deficiencies and that important omissions were made when it was drafted. The new act is a step forward"—and we admit that—"but given the starting point, which is the Pits and Quarries Control Act, it is clear that a much larger step is required; that presently is not the kind of legislation a forward-looking Ontario would implement."

That does not sound to me like support. As a matter of fact, it is outright criticism and a suggestion that more changes must be made. As I indicated, the Liberal amendments do nothing with the two most important issues, in my view, that this bill should have addressed. One is the fact that this bill does not change the designation to cover many areas of the province that are not currently controlled under the act.

I realize that during our debate or discussion with the ministry officials they indicated that under regulations—and it is also mentioned in the backgrounder—the government will be moving quickly to allow for designation of a number of areas of the province that are not currently designated. I will be speaking at greater length later on to my concern—and the minister is well aware of it—about regulation and having matters

dealt with by regulation, when in fact they could be dealt with by members of the House during the debate of the legislation itself.

1640

The other matter is that the bill continues to allow for very broad ministerial discretion. The backgrounder indicates that the ministry will be developing criteria according to which the minister will exercise his discretion in future. There are some suggested ones, but we do not have those. Considering the record in the past with regard to the Pits and Quarries Control Act, we have serious concerns about leaving so much to ministerial discretion.

The minister may argue that in fact he is serious and wants to tidy up and tighten up the administration of aggregate extraction in this province. But who knows, Mr. Speaker, you might be the minister some day and you might not be as serious as the current minister. I do not really want to just take at face value a goodwill commitment by the minister; I want to have something more concrete in the legislation.

I mentioned earlier that in my view the purpose of this legislation remains too weak. Clause 2(d) says that the purpose of the legislation is "to minimize adverse impact on the environment in respect of aggregate operations." It does not say what is meant by environment and it does not say what is meant by protection.

It could have been far more explicit and explained what was meant by protecting and preserving the environment. It could have explained what is meant by aggregate operations, such as extraction, processing and transportation, as well as recognizing the need to maximize the benefits to the people of the province of the aggregate operations in this province. In our view, the purpose of the legislation, the principle of the legislation, remains too weak.

When we met with the minister and his officials in January, we raised the concern about the definition of "environment" and argued that the definition that should be used is the definition in the Environmental Assessment Act. At the time the officials raised some concerns about that and said they did not think it could be done, but they assured us that there would be an amendment presented that would take the definition from the Environmental Protection Act and put it in this legislation. I have looked at these amendments, and that did not happen. Something happened between that meeting and the tabling of these amendments today; maybe that is why we did not get them earlier. It did not happen.

In the amendment the government calls environment "land, air and water and includes the use, condition and natural features of the site and adjacent lands." Is that not interesting—"the site and adjacent lands"? What about the next lot over? You have the adjacent lot, but if you have a good wind not just the adjacent lot is going to be affected by a pit operation.

The Environmental Protection Act definition is "'Natural environment' means the air, land and water, or any combination or part thereof, of the province of Ontario." That is clause 1(1)(k) of the Environmental Protection Act.

On January 12, when we had our meeting with the Minister of Natural Resources and his staff, we were promised that we would get that EPA definition as part of the amendments to this act, and we did not get it. Why not? What happened?

That is a very serious disappointment for us. I took the officials at their word that they were going to move to bring the EPA, if not the Environmental Assessment Act, definition into this legislation. The minister may say that by putting in "land, air and water" they have in fact copied it, but they have not, because the significant part beyond air, land and water in the EPA definition is, "any combination or part thereof, of the province of Ontario," not adjacent lands. It is pretty all-encompassing. That is why we wanted it. As I said, I would like to know why we did not get it.

The purpose and the definition really do fly in the face of previous positions taken by the Liberal Party in debating this kind of legislation in this House. I recall many years ago, when we had the amendments to the Pits and Quarries Control Act, the kinds of amendments that were introduced by the Liberal opposition at that time. These amendments introduced now by the Liberal government do not go anywhere near as far as those. It appears that the minister and his colleagues in this House have been captured by the furniture over at the Ministry of Natural Resources.

I would not suggest that the minister's staff in any way tried to convince the minister that the amendments he and his colleagues put when this debate was carried on under the previous regime were ill-founded or ill-advised. I am sure the minister's staff looked at those Liberal amendments and said, "Here we have the draft of the new legislation, and we are going to make that the new aggregates act for this province." So the only explanation, if the staff wanted to do it, was that the minister decided against it. I really do not understand what happened, how the member for

Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio) somehow fell from that high purpose that he and his colleagues had when they were in opposition with regard to the control of aggregate extraction in this province.

Mrs. Grier: Power corrupts.

Mr. Wildman: My colleague the member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore indicates that power corrupts. I would never have suggested that, but I thought it was worth while that I repeat it in order that Hansard get the chance to put in all of the interjections, as well as the interjections of the parliamentary assistant, which always get into Hansard.

1650

One of the things that I personally have been very committed to is to have the new legislation deal with the whole of Ontario, or if not the whole province at least those parts of the province that are populated. I am not suggesting necessarily that we should include the James Bay lowlands in the aggregate extraction legislation.

Perhaps in the area right around Moosonee or Moose Factory we should have the legislation apply, but in most of the rest of the area there is not a great deal of aggregate extraction, so if the government says, "No, it doesn't make sense to have that part of the province included," that is fine. But surely southern Ontario, eastern Ontario and the Highway 17 and Highway 11 corridors of northern Ontario should be covered.

That has been my position and the minister knows that, but we find in this bill and in the amendments no such provision. As a matter of fact, it is not even in the amendments to the bill. In the backgrounder that was presented as part of this package the ministry says:

"A number of recommendations from interest group submissions do not relate directly to Bill 170 but to the regulations which will accompany the act. Some of these concerns will be addressed as follows:"—and the first dot they have on here is—"Application of the act will be expanded through a three-year program to evaluate and phase in designation of new areas of the province by regulation following the act's proclamation."

I do not like that. I am happy, frankly, that the government is moving to expand the designations, but I am not happy that we are continuing with the old system of designation. I am certainly not happy that it is being done by regulation. Why could the act not have just made it clear?

The minister in his backgrounder says, "A priority will be placed on key areas such as Muskoka, Haliburton, Ottawa Valley, Napanee, the Manitoulin-north shore corridor, Thunder

Bay and Timmins." That is commendable, but I think it should have gone farther.

The interesting point in this backgrounder is the next statement, which says: "Discussions will be held with affected municipalities to determine if designation is appropriate. It is anticipated that greater municipal interest in designation to cover private land aggregate operations will occur as a result of the financial remuneration incentive."

Well, that is interesting. I would like to know exactly what the minister means by that, because right now we have a very difficult problem, particularly for small rural municipalities. There is a great deal of pressure put on municipal councils.

We all recognize that there is a demand for aggregate in this province. We need aggregate. However, we also need to ensure that aggregate extraction is not carried out in sensitive areas and that where it is appropriate to have aggregate extractions, it is carried out in such a way as to not harm the neighbouring properties and property owners; that where aggregate is transported from pit to market, it is done in such a way as to not cause a nuisance and problems for people in the neighbouring areas, and that when pits are exhausted or when the aggregate is no longer needed, they are properly rehabilitated.

It is very difficult for many small rural municipal councils to adequately control the operation of pits. It is even more difficult for such councils to resist the blandishments, if I can use that word, of aggregate developers and operators who are prepared to offer the municipalities lower-cost gravel for their roads if they will agree to allow the development of a pit or a series of pits within their municipal boundaries.

The minister talks about financial incentive or remuneration. I think the current decision of this provincial government to freeze the unconditional grants and to cap the transportation grants to municipalities in this province will produce an incentive to small rural municipalities to get gravel as cheaply as they can. That will mean it will be very difficult for small rural municipal councils to say no if they have a developer who says, "If you will agree to the operation of a pit in this area, we will give you a deal on the cost of the gravel for your roads."

In our view, this bill as it now stands, even with the amendments that were proposed this morning, does not go nearly far enough to protect the environment. There still remain inadequate requirements to pay ahead for and then actually to do rehabilitation of pits.

In the bill, we still do not have any statement that those who prepare site plans have to be qualified to do so under section 8. According to the bill and the amendments, a land surveyor is going to be permitted to draft such plans. While I have a great deal of respect for the land surveying profession in this province, many land surveyors are poorly qualified to prepare site plans for aggregate operations.

Frankly, in this proposal the government has made matters worse by amending this subsection to say that the plan does not even have to be drafted by an engineer, land surveyor, landscape architect himself or herself, but can be done "under the direction of and certified by such a person."

I suppose the impetus for this was the suggestion that it would be too costly for operators to have to hire an engineer. In our view, if that was the reason for this, then it is an indication that the government is backing off from protecting the environment and ensuring that there are proper criteria for site plans in the development of aggregate extraction operations.

I briefly mentioned earlier my concern about the continuation of the wide powers of discretion given to the Minister of Natural Resources as a result of this legislation as it is before us. In the last part of the backgrounder, the minister says, under policy and administrative procedures, "MNR is also committed to addressing many of the interest groups' concerns through policy and administrative procedures." Why were they not addressed through amendments to the act?

1700

Page 4 of the backgrounder goes on to delineate a number of the proposals that the government intends to deal with under administrative procedures.

One of them deals with the minister's discretion. It says the ministry will develop "clear criteria for the minister to base his/her decision upon when deciding: whether to relieve any licensee or permittee from compliance in whole or in part with the regulation; whether to waive or reduce the rehabilitation requirements on crown lands; whether to waive site plan requirements for personal aggregate permits; to consent to the transfer of a licence; whether an excavation is a pit or a quarry; whether to add, rescind or vary a condition to the licence at any time, or require the amendment of a site plan; when to require other information respecting the site plan and report; whether to accept a proposed amendment of a site plan by a licensee; what changes to an established licensed operation are minor, and what changes

are major, when notifying local municipalities of major changes."

Then the minister concludes by saying, "The development of the policies and administrative procedures of MNR will be done in consultation with other government ministries, including MOE and OMAF."

There are a couple of those matters which are at and continue to be at the discretion of the minister, which are very concerning to us: whether to relieve any licensee or permittee from compliance in whole or in part with the regulation; whether to waive or reduce the rehabilitation requirements on crown land, and whether to waive the site plan requirements for personal aggregate permits and then the consent for the transfer of a licence.

I am not suggesting that the minister's hands should be completely tied, but I think that if there is going to be development of criteria which say when the minister can do these things, they should have been developed by now and they should have been in the act. The minister should have been given discretion by the act to say when he or she can do these things, rather than having them developed by a group of well-meaning, hard-working bureaucrats, without debate by the members of this assembly.

There are a number of things in the amendments that are supportable in our view, and I would like to refer briefly to those. I think the amendments do make some improvements. Some examples are: the changes in the penalty provisions, which are acceptable, in our view—the change from \$5,000 to \$50,000 maximum; the need for development permits for waysides in the Niagara Escarpment planning area; tighter restrictions on waysides, which generally is a step in the right direction—but I will speak about that in a moment; I do not think it goes far enough—the requirement to post signs on sites for which licence applications have been made. This is a good thing because then obviously it allows the neighbours and people in the area to know when an application has been made and gives them the opportunity, if they have concerns, to make representations and have their views heard.

I would like, though, to deal with the question of wayside pits. I do not think, even with the amendment, that the bill really brings an end to the chaos surrounding the operation of wayside pits in this province. The backgrounder, in dealing with the section on regulations, says there will be a "limitation on the repetitive use of

a wayside site" and this "will be developed to control excessive sequential use of the site."

That has been a major problem. I welcome the attempt at a solution, but again it is being done by regulation. It really should have been in the act. There should be a limitation on the repetitive use of a wayside site and that should be right in the act. It should not be done by regulation.

The minister should be well aware of the problems in Erin township. There have been some 24 wayside permits over the past 10 years, which has basically meant continuous use of the site. It was never intended or at least it should not have been intended that wayside permits should be abused in this way. It seems to me that the ministry should have been able to develop by now a provision for this act which would have ensured that this kind of abuse does not continue and never happens again.

Instead the ministry says it is going to do it and it is going to do it by regulation once the act is passed. What is the holdup? If they now already know, as the parliamentary assistant indicates that they do, how they are going to do it, why did they not put it in the act or at least why did they not put it in one of the amendments that arrived on my desk this morning, a little over four hours before we were to debate second reading?

It is with some regret that I have to inform the members of the assembly that, after the short and limited period of time we have had to consider these amendments and the bill, I and my party will be voting against this legislation at second reading. We do not think the bill goes far enough to protect the environment. We do not think it goes far enough to ensure that property owners in the area, neighbours and people affected by the extraction, processing and transportation of aggregate in this province are properly protected.

I say that with a good deal of disappointment because, as the minister knows, I have been pressing for changes in the act. I hope that we can move, whatever happens in this legislation. If by some strange happenstance my arguments are not persuasive enough to persuade a majority in this House to vote against this legislation on second reading, I hope it can be adequately amended in committee, so that it actually does what the minister says he would like it to do and so that some of the changes that are proposed to be dealt with by regulation or by administrative procedure, and which are very important, can be included in the act.

If the bill goes to committee, we will be proposing amendments to do that, to strengthen the protection of the environment, to define what

is meant by environment, the way the ministry promised us it was going to be stated, and to define what protection means.

Mr. Pollock: I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) on the new addition to his family. This blessed event has not taken away from him the ability to be an outstanding orator in this assembly. Anyway, once again, congratulations and I hope that mother and baby are doing fine.

1710

The Deputy Speaker: I am glad the topic is natural resources. Other questions or comments? Does the minister wish to respond also in two minutes?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: No, I was just going to make a quick comment of clarification.

I would like to share with the member that we were prepared Friday past to deliver the amendments. I have been told that we attempted to do that and in both instances we were unable to deliver the amendments because while we had a deliverer, we did not have someone whom we felt they should be delivered to. That is generally, I can tell the member, what is the case.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Come on, there are House leaders' offices.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I am sharing this with my critic and I do not think the member opposite knows the first thing about this. The fact of the matter is that we had made an attempt to deliver that package on Friday. I am disappointed it did not happen and I accept the comments that my critic has made that he was very disappointed because I was hoping that he would have four clear days to examine the amendments, particularly in some kind of depth.

Mr. Wildman: I want to say to the minister that while I certainly do not consider myself any kind of an expert, I have had some experience over the last few days on deliveries. I do think that if the minister had the amendments available Friday that was still too late. But even if they were available on Friday they could have been delivered to my office. I did not have to be there in order for them to be delivered. As a matter of fact, I did not even have to be in Sault Ste. Marie for our daughter to be delivered, but I am sure glad I was.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I would like to follow up for a few minutes some of the comments made by the member for Algoma. I join with my colleague the member for Hastings-Peterborough (Mr. Pollock) in congratulating him on his fine delivery, or his wife's.

I would also like to express concerns that the amendments were so late in coming, but if they are meaningful amendments, or at least if the minister will listen to some of our meaningful amendments, then it may not all be in vain.

I would suggest to the member for Algoma that there is not much point in holding his breath and waiting for the minister or the government to withdraw Bill 170. He refused to comply with our reasonable request for bills 113 and 114 to be withdrawn, so with that experience behind us I would assume that he is struggling on ahead. Unlike the member for Algoma, I would like to suggest that we will be supporting the bill on the understanding that it will be going to committee and that there will be public hearings and that he will listen to the public, unlike with bills 113 and 114, and make some amendments to satisfy the people who take the time and the effort to make presentations for his benefit.

I have had some past experience with this piece of legislation. I sat on the standing committee on resources development back in 1979 and 1980 when the bill was discussed. We had all kinds of public hearings for many months. It seems to me that I recall well over 30 amendments from each party, including the Conservative Party at that time. We decided, in our wisdom, to accept many of the amendments and suggestions made by the public, so the minister of the day was quite prepared to accept some reasonable amendments. I hope this minister is just as agreeable.

I think Bill 170 is needed. Indeed, I welcome the opportunity to participate in it. It has many positive features and I would like to make reference to a few that I think are of a positive nature. One of the most important is financial compensation to the municipalities from producing pits and quarries. This makes sense. The municipalities that have been involved in this in the past really do pay a big price for their aggregate.

As I mentioned earlier, and I will maybe mention it later too, the township of Puslinch is engaged in an Ontario Municipal Board hearing that is going to cost it \$250,000. This is a heavy price to pay. It will take many pennies to offset this, but it is trying to defend its land use policy and have some sense of order in the development of the municipality. That is as it should be. At the same time, if pits are allowed in the municipality, they do have a detrimental effect, and it is only reasonable that the municipality should receive some compensation for that.

I suggest that the production levy is too low. It should be increased by at least two cents, another one and a half cents to the municipality and another half a cent for rehabilitation.

I have talked to many people in the aggregate industry and they are not opposed to six or eight cents, as long as it is uniform across the province. It is totally unfair for some companies to have to pay six or eight cents and other companies not have to pay any, depending on where they locate. It should be one general levy right across the province.

I think it is a positive feature for increased progress and final rehabilitation for private land pits and quarries that makes sense. There are too many pits and quarries that are left in their bare, forsaken appearance, especially the wayside pits. It is not fair for the municipality to have to put up with that, so the ministry has to take a more meaningful role in seeing that there is rehabilitation.

I am quite concerned about rehabilitation below the water level. It is my understanding that it is next to impossible to rehabilitate. Rehabilitate does not mean simply allowing it to fill with water and throwing in a few fish. That is not rehabilitation. In the township of Puslinch there are too many lakes now. It does not need any more.

When I mentioned this earlier the minister mentioned golf courses. I am not sure they have such a thing as golf courses under water.

"Increased municipal involvement in licensing and review of pit and quarry operations." I totally support that. The municipal councils are locally elected. They are directly responsible to the people. They are responsible for truck traffic and many of the issues pertaining to pits that create real problems, and they should have some say in the traffic and the problems associated with trying to police this type of operation.

"Greater consideration of environmental matters." That is extremely important, as well. In fact, right today, the environment is one of the major issues facing us in many fields.

The township of Puslinch requested the Minister of the Environment to become involved in the Ontario Municipal Board hearing. The response from the minister, dated September 12, to their letter of some day in June, says to the reeve: "In the matter of the OMB hearing into policies of the official plan which deal with the extractive industry, I reiterate the commitment made by Mr. Rudolph to technical assistance, based upon the studies mentioned and within the context of my ministry's mandate.

"I trust that you will understand that, in view of the above, a meeting between us would not be fruitful."

I am not sure what the ministry has to do with the fruit trees of Puslinch, but certainly with the gravel he did not have any interest in appearing or making a submission on behalf of that township.

As I mentioned earlier, the Minister of Agriculture and Food also declined to assist. He did offer his assistance in a very minor way but refused to participate in the hearing, even though many of the acres of land that will be rezoned are agricultural land.

This might be an appropriate time to mention that the University of Guelph is one of the proponents. The University of Guelph is directly associated with the Ontario Agricultural College, the leading college in agriculture in Canada. It is requesting that 474 acres of land be taken out of class 2 land and possibly developed into a lake. They are not sure—they have not stated—but they do want 474 acres of land, and that does not seem to be satisfactory.

1720

I think the minister mentioned earlier that the University of Guelph was going to work with the ministry in rehabilitation and something to do with fish farms, which sounds like a lake. If that is the intent of the university, then I think it should really take a look at thinking up something different for Puslinch, because it is a little too close to home.

Mr. Ballinger: How about Lake Vincent?

Mr. J. M. Johnson: The parliamentary assistant says that we should call any of the future lakes Lake Vincent.

Some of the positive aspects of Bill 170 are rehabilitation of abandoned pits and quarries, especially wayside pits that are naturally close to the road and that are an eyesore in the country—that should be fully supported by most people—and immediate suspension of licences and permits for serious contraventions. That too should be acted on.

It is my understanding that the definition of "wayside pits" has not been explained adequately. Hopefully, the parliamentary assistant has some idea of what we are looking for when he tries to explain his amendments. The definition of "environment" also needs to be cleared up.

I would like to bring to the attention of the minister and the parliamentary assistant who will be dealing with this later, a couple of problems that have been raised by the township of Erin. The member for Algoma made reference to the fact that there are over 20 wayside pits in the

township of Erin, which is way too high a number. It should be looked after, or certainly rehabilitated.

As the minister will remember, several weeks ago he met with the township officials from the council of Erin. They were very pleased with the meeting and quite satisfied with his comments. At that time they were concerned because a new pit operator had bought out an existing licence and did not feel he was compelled to follow the conditions laid down for the first pit operator. The minister concurred with the council that indeed he should follow those instructions. At the present time I think there is still a problem there, but the municipality is going to try to resolve it before it comes back.

In their response to Bill 170, they mentioned the fact that they do feel there is a concern that has not been dealt with in Bill 170 that relates to the problem they are having. They would like the minister to consider the following questions. "Will conditions attached to the existing licence be carried forward without amendments? If one operator has a set of conditions applied against him, does that follow when the pit is sold to another operator? Will the ministry include compliance with municipal agreements as a condition of new licences? Will the new act allow meaningful municipal input on concerns relating to site planning, hours of operation, noise impacts, haul routes and other concerns?"

These are questions of the people locally elected and close to the public. They hear complaints and they want to be able to help their constituents, so surely these concerns are well-intentioned. Hopefully the minister will give them consideration.

I will not take up too much time, as we will have more time to get into this when we get to the amendments. I would just like to make reference to a couple of other comments relating to the township of Puslinch.

At the present time, three million tons of gravel are mined annually in Puslinch. Approximately another 1,000 acres are under consideration. There have been applications made for some of them. About one third of the township of Puslinch contains gravel, and much of it is fairly rich gravel.

This is a problem in that there is a provincial need for aggregate, and everybody has to recognize it, but there is a limit on the amount that any one municipality should have to give up of its prime farm land and its environment for the sake of provincial need. Puslinch is certainly an

example of a township that is paying a very heavy price.

If the minister can address the issues of compensation, rehabilitation and of allowing local municipalities to have more say in the development and control of their own aggregate and indeed of their land-use policies, that would go a long way to solving the problems that the township of Puslinch and many similar townships in this province are having.

I will conclude with that and will try to deal with some of the issues either at the public hearings or through the amendments.

Mr. Elliot: I would like to comment on the statement of the member for Wellington, since he is my next-door neighbour. Since we in Halton North have gone from being number three from an aggregate production point of view to number one in the province, it is an area of particular concern for us. I particularly enjoyed the detailed and pointed comments that he made, because he has talked about compensation, rehabilitation and municipal control.

I was a little disappointed in the critic of the official opposition, though I understand he has a reason for his lack of focus, maybe, particularly at the beginning of his address this afternoon. Becoming a daddy again and having to worry about a 9-pound, 14-ounce baby, born fairly recently, may have distracted him just a bit.

Mr. Ballinger: His wife did all the work.

Mr. Elliot: My colleague says, "His wife did all the work," and that is exactly what I was going to point out here; so he does not really have too much of an excuse.

I would have preferred, when he talked about regulations and said the bill was too weak in principle, that he enumerate exactly what he meant by that, because I know that people in Halton North are very conscious that part of the implementation of this act will be with the regulations.

I would like to compliment the minister in this particular case. There has been a lot of time for dialogue with respect to the bill because it was first put on the table back in June. There will be committee hearings. Because of 40 amendments already being proposed—17 of them being substantive—I think it is going to wind up being an excellent bill and people in Halton North will certainly appreciate that. I would like to commend the minister on the bill as presented.

Mr. Wildman: I would like to comment on the presentation of the member for Wellington-Dufferin—

Mr. J. M. Johnson: Just Wellington.

Mr. Wildman: Just Wellington? What happened to Dufferin and Peel? Were they dug up?

While I understand his concerns, I am not sure I agree with his conclusion. But having said that, I think the member might agree with me that I made clear in my presentation my concern about its being too weak in that it does not properly define environment and does not properly delineate how that environment is to be protected.

The Acting Speaker: Are there any other comments or questions? The member for Wellington will respond.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: Just briefly, I would like to suggest to the member for Halton North (Mr. Elliot) that one of the problems we have, and always will have, is competition for land use, even within the ministry and the cabinet. The Ministry of Natural Resources feels that land should be used for some purposes; the Ministry of Agriculture and Food has a different definition; the Ministry of the Environment is involved and even the Ministry of Municipal Affairs. So even within the cabinet there is quite an argument over which use is most important to the province, for the present population and also for the future.

There will always be that competing need for land and what purposes it can be used for. An example is housing, which I mentioned; but if we put it into housing, we take it out of agriculture. There is always the need for it and we always have to try to balance the two, three or four needs and come out with the best use for the people.

1730

The point I was trying to get across was the fact that some townships in some parts of the province seem to pay a very high price on certain uses, for example for aggregates. We have to keep that in consideration and take it into account when we design our support policies. Hopefully the Ontario Municipal Board, for example, will keep that as one of its criteria, that a township reaches a certain point and then consideration has to be given that maybe it has reached its peak.

As a comment to the member for Algoma, I would just like to suggest that while we may not agree on the principles of going ahead with the bill, hopefully we can agree on many of the amendments to make it a better bill.

Mr. Ballinger: I am pleased to rise in support of second reading of Bill 170 and I want to take this opportunity to publicly congratulate the minister for introducing second reading. For some of us who have been affected by the

aggregate industry for a number of years in our communities, I know I speak not only for myself but on behalf of many communities across Ontario that are going to be supporting this legislation, and the sooner we get it through the better for all considered.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Who is speaking for those who are opposing it?

Mr. Ballinger: My job right here, quite frankly, is to speak in support, and I am quite pleased, quite honoured to do that.

I want to recite a little story that I think will sort of bring this whole issue into focus. Once upon a time, in December 1975, there was a Minister of Natural Resources by the name of Frank Miller. As a newly appointed Minister of Natural Resources, Frank Miller's job and his responsibility was to appoint a committee, and the name of this committee was the Ontario Mineral Aggregate Working Party.

Mr. Beer: I remember it.

Mr. Ballinger: He remembers it. I remember it well.

Is that not a mouthful? That was typical of the Tories in those days: long on titles and short on direction.

The members of that committee were volunteers. There were members from the Conservation Council of Ontario, the Niagara Escarpment Commission, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Aggregate Producers Association of Ontario and some citizens.

One of those members, appointed by AMO, was a young man, appointed by his municipality, who was given assurance then, 13 years ago, by the minister, that if we all volunteered our time and travelled across Ontario and put forth a recommendation that covered the broad spectrum of all the issues for the minister, we would see new legislation.

Well, I want to tell members, that young man was me.

I want to point out to the members I still hold that autographed document by the then minister, Leo Bernier, at the completion of our report. I was given the same assurance, "Don't worry, be happy," because the Tories were going to bring in legislation in Ontario that would resolve a lot of the conflicts.

Here we are at second reading. Our government has said: "Okay, enough is enough. There is a role in Ontario for a proactive, progressive piece of legislation, and Bill 170 is that."

There are all kinds of people who will tell us what is wrong with the legislation, but I want to tell the members, from my own experience this is

a good piece of legislation, one our government can be proud of. When completed it will lead the way across Canada for legislation that deals with conflicting land uses and a nonrenewable resource like aggregates.

I listened very intently to the member for Wellington and his concerns about one of his townships in Puslinch.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: It is pronounced Puslinch.

Mr. Ballinger: Puslinch; I am sorry.

I am very proud of the fact that the township of Uxbridge is the only municipality in all of Ontario that has its own regulatory bylaw, upheld by the Supreme Court of Canada. That bylaw cost our township hundreds of thousands of dollars, but we did that in the interests of the conflicting land uses.

I have read with interest the problems in Puslinch. We solved those problems about 15 years ago by designating that nonrenewable resource, so that when people came into the community they knew where the resource was. One of the problems we have in Ontario today is that there are many municipalities that think they cannot designate a nonrenewable resource, and we get into all kinds of conflicting land use problems.

I say, with the greatest respect to Puslinch, that under the Planning Act they are entitled to plan in accordance with their own community, but from a provincial point of view we must recognize that it is a nonrenewable resource and it is for all of the public good.

Uxbridge, Milton and Caledon are the three top producers in all of Ontario. I can remember the days when Uxbridge was only producing three million tons. Those are days long gone.

The day I became mayor of Uxbridge, which was in 1980, I was dealing with the then member from our riding of Durham-York, whom incidentally I had the opportunity to defeat in the last election. I was assured for a number of years that the government of the day—

Interjection.

Mr. Ballinger: Yes, more than I am.

I was assured the government of the day would be enacting legislation. It never did. Every time it wanted to do something about it, it decided, for political reasons, it would not do it. I say to each and every one of us in this Legislature that Bill 170 is a long time coming in Ontario, and I can tell members there is lots of support out there for it.

I want to again congratulate the minister and I want to close by reading a line that I think is very

apropos: ??“It is the opinion of the working party that, if the recommendations suggested in the following report are followed, local interests can be protected and provincial objectives achieved at the same time.”

I say to all members of the Legislature that Bill 170 not only incorporates the bulk of this report of 1975, but it further strengthens—

Mr. D. S. Cooke: It is 13 years out of date.

Mr. Ballinger: It is not 13 years out of date at all. We were just like Panasonic, slightly ahead of our time. It is just too bad the Tory government of those days was not in step with the rest of Ontario.

I am very pleased to rise in support of Bill 170 and I look forward to a very robust and healthy discussion at committee.

The Deputy Speaker: Are there any comments or questions?

Mr. Elliot: I would like to rise and comment on the talk given by my colleague the member for Durham-York. I think we should put a couple of things on the record here today. As the former mayor of Uxbridge, he should not really have to stand up and indicate himself that he and his colleagues who travelled around the province way back in 1975 did an extremely fine job. It is just unfortunate that the recommendations made at that time were not acted upon in a tangible way before this.

The reason for this, I think, is that they put things in perspective for those of us who are from the aggregate part of the country. We often have a great deal of pride when we look at physical phenomena that are dependent upon the aggregate industry. The mayor of one municipality, for example Milton, takes a great deal of pride in pointing at the CN Tower and indicating to us that most of the aggregate that was used in that fine structure was aggregate from our area.

At the same time, we have to realize that things have changed. The rehabilitation, the reuse, the recycling of material is very important. I think this government should take a great deal of pride at the same time in knowing that it has emphasized these things to advantage.

Sitting beside the CN Tower now is a great SkyDome, which will be opened on June 3, 1989. The key thing about that is that a significant amount of the building material that went into that facility is reused concrete and other things from the city of Toronto.

I would like to conclude by saying that in Halton North we do not mind selling aggregate for useful purposes to build this great province of ours. We just do not want to use it unnecessarily.

We want the pits rehabilitated after they have been used for that purpose.

1740

The Acting Speaker (Mr. M. C. Ray): Does the member for Durham-York wish to reply?

Mr. Ballinger: In the essence of time, Mr. Speaker, no. I will allow other speakers to proceed.

Mrs. Grier: I am glad to participate in this debate and to associate myself with the comments of my colleague the member for Algoma, because I too am very disappointed in the process that has been followed in this bill so far and in the fact that the amendments were not only very late in being received by those of us who wished to comment on them, but when they were received contained nothing much of substance.

Certainly, when we understood there were going to be this many amendments, after the time the bill had been in circulation and the very substantive submissions that had been made to the minister by groups which were interested in this legislation, I had hoped that the amendments, when they eventually came forth, would address so many of the points and comments that had been made in that response.

Not only are the amendments a disappointment, but frankly, the fact we have this bill after such a long gestation time in the form it now is, is a disappointment.

What I want to do in the brief few minutes available to me is to remind the members of the government of the concept of sustainable development, a phrase that has become almost a buzzword in the environmental community and certainly among members of this government, who say that they adhere to the concept as enunciated in the Brundtland report and who support, as we all did, resolutions this last week in private member's hour concerning the Niagara Escarpment and our desire for sustainable development.

Aggregates extraction is not sustainable. It is a nonrenewable resource. Surely, in developing legislation to deal with aggregates, if one believes in sustainable development, that legislation ought to put the environment not just first, but before everything.

This bill purports to be a protection of the environment, but as has been pointed out so ably by my colleague not only is the definition of the environment totally lacking in this bill, but the whole aspect of how the environment is to be protected has a lot of shortcomings.

There was an opportunity in this bill to do what the Brundtland commission asked for, which is

to have a total integration of economic and environmental decisions. In fact, it is interesting to review the Hansard of the debate that was held back in 1979-80, after the discussions the previous speaker referred to. In that debate, one of the speakers said:

"It almost seems that the Minister of Natural Resources and his advisers become really the operators of the overall provincial industry. Of course at the same time they have the responsibility to control it.... No sanctions of the new act"—he was referring to the previous government's act—"will allow assessment of site locations or enforcements by the Ministry of the Environment."

The speaker was the present member for Brant-Haldimand (Mr. R. F. Nixon), and yet we find, despite those criticisms at that time, no integration of the Ministry of the Environment into the legislation is proposed by the now Minister of Natural Resources.

An example of another ministry that ought to be involved in the aggregates industry, but is not in this legislation, was also given in that previous debate. One of the speakers said: "In designating these aggregate areas, there is no question there is a conflict of land use.... I was surprised that at the hearings we had there was no one from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food speaking up on behalf of their famous food land guidelines."

The speaker at that time was the present member for Huron, now the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell). Yet we see no evidence in this legislation that the preservation of food lands is an integral part of the legislation as it is going to be enacted.

My colleague has referred to the lack of definition of the environment. I was interested, in going back not only to the speeches but to some election promises from the Liberal government, which in 1985 said it would require that all pits and quarries be subject to an environmental impact assessment and that the provisions of the Environmental Assessment Act would apply.

Surely a party that came to power promising to put pits and quarries under the Environmental Assessment Act should at the very least include in the legislation that it brings forward the definition of the environment as enunciated in the Environmental Assessment Act; but even that in the Environmental Protection Act would have been better than the designation before us today.

I was interested to hear the member for Halton North express his strong support for this legislation, because one of the concerns I have about the legislation is the fact that the Niagara Escarpment

is not protected by this legislation. There is no way there ought to be pits and quarries in the Niagara Escarpment protected area. They ought not to be allowed. We have in the amendment some slight improvement, in that wayside pits are now going to be subject to a permit under the regulations, but the very fact of having pits and quarries in the Niagara Escarpment protected areas is a contradiction in terms.

In fact, I am sure the member for Halton North is aware that some of his constituents have communicated with me, as they have with other members, about their concern that when the Niagara Escarpment plan was enacted, the plan merely recognized existing licences. There are a number of areas within the Niagara Escarpment area where licences were given 10, 15 and almost 20 years ago and where pits that perhaps nobody has ever dreamed of could proceed without being subject to the requirements of this legislation.

Reference has been made to the lack of substance in some of the sections dealing with rehabilitation, and I feel quite strongly about that. I also agree with those who have said that the discretionary powers of the minister are far too broad. I hope that in the amendments put in the discussion at committee we can perhaps address some of those shortcomings.

Finally, I want to express my concern at the fact that in the background we received today the statement is made that "every interest group offered support for Bill 170." I suppose if you take it very literally, as I suspect it was intended to be taken, they did indeed offer support. Most of the groups acknowledged that this legislation was better than the existing legislation, but as has already been pointed out, the Foundation for Aggregate Studies expressed its very real concern about the legislation.

I would also like to put on the record the fact that the Conservation Council of Ontario, in its comments back to the minister, acknowledged that Bill 170 is on the whole an improvement over the current Pits and Quarries Control Act, but went on to say: "Despite the progressive elements of Bill 170, there remain some significant deficiencies. Many of these can be relatively simply remedied." I, like many others, had hoped that those remedies would be in the amendments that were tabled and regret that they are not.

The final comment on the bill ought, I think, to come from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario which, like the rest of us, acknowledged that Bill 170 was better than the existing situation, but called for a broader definition of

the environment to be employed in the bill. They offered their support, but they had some very real reservations with the bill in its first draft. I know that, having seen the amendments, they will certainly continue to have those reservations.

The intent of the bill, as enunciated by the minister, is very praiseworthy. We would all like to see the environment protected and the aggregates industry controlled. Obviously the crux of it is, is the weapon that is being used adequate to do the job? I regret that it is not. I hope that, if the minister really wants to achieve what he says he wants to achieve, he will be more open to amendments as a result of the committee process than some of his colleagues have been when it has come to other legislation that has been before the House this session.

The Acting Speaker: Are there any comments or questions? In view of the hour, it would be appropriate for me at this stage to ask for a motion to adjourn the debate.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, I just want to indicate that the Lieutenant Governor awaits to give royal assent to a number of bills, but we would very much like, if possible, to conclude this debate today. If our friend the member for Hastings-Peterborough would like to take that, by all means let him.

1750

Mr. Pollock: There are a few things I want to put on the record. One of course is the fact that we did get these amendments at the 11th hour and therefore did not have the chance to study them in the way we should have.

Anyway, I can appreciate the minister's comments. He said that this bill is going to committee; therefore, we will have a chance to study it in committee. I know the aggregate producers are a very important industry in this particular province; they employ a lot of people and they should have input into this bill.

I can appreciate the concerns of the member for Wellington, who expressed his views on the townships of Erin and Puslinch and their particular concerns about this particular legislation. This bill could certainly stand some improvements.

The minister mentioned in his comments that there has been a lot of rehabilitation of pits down in his area, and that was done back in the good old Tory days. We started that procedure of rehabilitating some of those gravel pits, and now they are a credit to his area. As I say, that was started back when we were the government.

I have some problems, though, with the very first amendment. It mentions that all these things

are aggregates, meaning "gravel, sand, clay, earth, shale, rock other than metallic ores, limestone, dolomite, sandstone, marble, granite." I have, I bet, millions of tonnes of ore in my riding, really not that far from where I live. I would imagine that there are traces of gold and silver in that ore, but it is not valuable enough to actually process. Therefore, I see no reason at all why that particular material could not be used in the construction of roads. It should be worded in such a way that if it is ore that has gold and silver content of high enough a grade to process, it should not be used in road construction.

It goes on to say "other prescribed material." As far as I am concerned, it should be written right in there that uranium mine tailings should not be used in road construction. I believe that should be written right into this first section.

Those are a few of the things I wanted to make comments on. Because of the hour, I appreciate the other members giving me a chance to put a few of these things on the record. I wanted to comment briefly on them.

Mr. Speaker: Are there any comments or questions? Any other members wishing to participate in the debate? If not, the minister may wish to wind up.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: At the outset, I would like to thank all honourable members who participated in a preliminary debate here that is going to have a very important bill move forward. I am pleased that there is going to be a great deal of ability at the committee stages for everyone who is interested to participate in the amendments. We will have adequate time, as the member for Wellington asked for, for people to appear before the committee to talk to this very important bill.

There is only one downside to this, and it is the fact that the official opposition is not prepared to support the bill. I am a bit disappointed in that. I would hope that, between now and the time that it goes through the standing committee, they might change their minds and finally support the bill.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Kerrio has moved second reading of Bill 170.

All those in favour will say "aye."

All those opposed will say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Hon. Mr. Conway: By agreement, we are going to stack this vote until 5:45 on Wednesday afternoon.

Mr. Speaker: Is there unanimous consent to stack this vote until Wednesday at 5:45?

Agreed to.

Vote stacked.

Hon. Mr. Conway: The Lieutenant Governor awaits to give royal assent to a number of bills.

His Honour the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario entered the chamber of the Legislative Assembly and took his seat upon the throne.

ROYAL ASSENT

SANCTION ROYALE

Hon. Mr. Alexander: Pray be seated.

Mr. Speaker: May it please Your Honour, the Legislative Assembly of the province has, at its present sittings thereof, passed certain bills to which, in the name of and on behalf of the said Legislative Assembly, I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

Clerk Assistant: The following are the titles of the bills to which Your Honour's assent is prayed:

Bill 69, An Act to amend the Education Act;

Bill 70, An Act to amend the Education Act;

Bill 113, An Act to amend the Retail Business Holidays Act;

Bill 114, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act;

Bill 128, An Act to amend the Planning Act, 1983;

Bill 134, An Act to repeal certain Private Acts related to Municipalities;

Bill 135, An Act to amend the Road Access Act;

Bill 169, An Act to amend the District Municipality of Muskoka Act;

Bill 186, An Act to provide for the Allocation of certain Payments or Grants in lieu of Taxes made by Canada to Municipalities in respect of Lands that are Exempt from Taxation;

Bill 188, An Act to amend the Juries Act;

Bill 192, An Act to amend the Municipal Act and certain other Acts related to Municipalities;

Bill 197, An Act to amend the Regional Municipality of Sudbury Act;

Bill 199, An Act to amend the Ryerson Polytechnical Institute Act, 1977;

Bill 203, An Act to amend certain Acts as they relate to the Law Society;

Bill Pr4, An Act respecting The Ottawa Civil Service Recreational Association;

Bill Pr36, An Act respecting Association des traducteurs et interprètes de l'Ontario/The Association of Translators and Interpreters of Ontario,

Projet de loi Pr36, Loi concernant l'Association des traducteurs et interprètes de l'Ontario/ The Association of Translators and Interpreters of Ontario;

Bill Pr40, An Act respecting the City of Trenton;

Bill Pr43, An Act to revive I. Gosselin & F. Camiré Developments Limited and to change its name to Northern Frontier Develop. Ltd.;

Bill Pr60, An Act respecting the Sudbury Hydro-Electric Commission;

Bill Pr61, An Act respecting The Sisters of Social Service;

Bill Pr74, An Act respecting the City of London;

Bill Pr76, An Act to revive John Zivanovic Holdings Limited;

Bill Pr79, An Act respecting the Town of Markham;

Bill Pr80, An Act respecting Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital;

Bill Pr81, An Act respecting The Windsor Light Opera Association.

Clerk of the House: In Her Majesty's name, His Honour the Lieutenant Governor doth assent to these bills.

Au nom de Sa Majesté, Son Honneur le lieutenant-gouverneur sanctionne ces projets de loi.

His Honour the Lieutenant Governor was pleased to retire from the chamber.

The House adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

- Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breaugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
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 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
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 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
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 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)
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Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordinano, Joseph (Lawrence L)
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)
 Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC)
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)
Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)
Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A., Speaker (Perth L)
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)
Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L)
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)
Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)
Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)
 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)
Grandmaitre, Hon. Bernard C., Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)
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 Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)
 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)
Hošek, Hon. Chaviva, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)
 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)
 Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L)
Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G., Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L)
 Kormos, Peter (Welland-Thorold NDP)
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)
Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)
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 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)
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- Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)
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 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
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Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier,
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 (Brant-Haldimand L)
Oddie Munro, Hon. Lily, Minister of Culture
 and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)
O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and
 Recreation (Quinte L)
 O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)
 Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)
Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government
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 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)
Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and Presi-
 dent of the Council and Minister of Inter-
 governmental Affairs (London Centre L)
 Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)
Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship
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 Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of
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 and Russell L)
 Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)
 Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)
 Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)
 Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)
 Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)
 Rae, Bob (York South NDP)
Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional
 Services (Timiskaming L)
 Ray, Michael C., Deputy Chairman of the
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 Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)
 Reycraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)
Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and
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 Roberts, Marietta L. D. (Elgin L)
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 Smith, David W. (Lambton L)
Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General
 (London South L)
 Sola, John (Mississauga East L)
Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour
 (York Centre L)
 South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)
 Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)
 Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)
 Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)
Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community
 and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
 Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)
 Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)
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 garry PC)
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Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



First Session, 34th Parliament

Tuesday, February 28, 1989

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer

Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, February 28, 1989

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Mr. Mackenzie: What do the following prominent citizens in my community and district have in common?

They are: Tim Lambert, president of Local 676 of the Canadian Auto Workers; Gary Cook, business agent of both locals of the United Electrical Workers; John Slinger, lawyer with the McQuesten Legal and Community Services Clinic; Vern Lepine of my own local, 5328, of the United Steelworkers of America; Rodney Bezo, Aluminum, Brick and Glass Workers International Union; Laurie King, Local 6868 of the Steelworkers; Herb MacDonald, workers' adviser, International Association of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Iron Workers; Edward Crook, United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, and Robert Kinneer, chairperson of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union southwestern Ontario council.

What these people have in common is that they are victims of the broken promises of this Liberal government, the broken promises of a more open government and input into decisions made by this government. All of these people represent just some of the 44 organizations that will be denied their day in court, their ability to make a presentation before the standing committee on resources development looking at Bill 162 in the province.

The ones I have read are large organizations, prominent organizations very much involved in this whole field. There are 37 others I could have listed that will not have their day in court as a result of the refusal, by a six-to-three vote of the Liberal members on that committee, to allow everybody to have a hearing on Bill 162.

SIMCOE COUNTY ATHLETES

Mr. McLean: My statement concerns two groups of Simcoe county athletes who will be competing in major events in March. On behalf of my colleague the member for Simcoe West (Mr. McCague) and myself, best wishes.

The first is a 16-member ski team, including athletes, coaches and team doctor, from Collingwood Collegiate Institute that will be competing in the International Sports Federation world alpine skiing championships in Östersund, Sweden from March 3 to 10.

This major international event is open to 14- and 15-year-old boys and girls who will be competing against hundreds of high school students from other skiing nations. This will be the first time Canada will be represented at this significant international event.

The second group is the Russ Howard curling team from Penetanguishene. Skip Russ Howard, vice Glen Howard, second Tim Belcourt, lead Kent Carstairs and fifth man Larry Merkley will represent Ontario at the Labatt's Brier Canadian men's curling championship in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, from March 5 to 12. The Howard team recently won their third Ontario provincial men's curling championship in four years and continue to demonstrate that they certainly are masters of the ice.

I am sure that we all wish the Collingwood Collegiate Institute ski team and the Russ Howard rink success in their respective events. They truly are worthy representatives of Ontario. I would also like to thank the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr. O'Neil) for the gifts that he has donated to the curlers.

STELCO INC.

Ms. Collins: I am pleased to inform the House that Stelco sent out letters last week offering approximately 270 of its former employees full-time, permanent employment at its Hilton works plant in Hamilton. With the completion of this task, the company will have offered full-time jobs to all of its laid-off workers who have retained recall rights. For the first time in many years, Stelco's recall list will be blank.

This is a milestone achievement. As members know, the early years of this decade were not easy for Stelco and its employees. Thousands of workers were laid off and the entire Hamilton economy suffered tremendously. After the last layoff in the spring of 1985, however, the company made a commitment to undertake a five-year productivity enhancement and employ-

ment stabilization program involving the investment of hundreds of millions of dollars in new modernized production facilities, a pledge of no further layoffs and a promise to do its best to offer full-time employment by 1990 to all of its former workers with recall rights.

Stelco has honoured these commitments. This recall announcement marks the end of a difficult transition period for Stelco and the Hamilton community alike. From this experience, both have emerged better able to compete in a rapidly changing global marketplace. I congratulate the management and the employees of Stelco on their success in forging this competitive renewal and making possible the latest employment recall.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Mr. D. S. Cooke: When the Liberal government referred Bill 30 and Bill 94 to committee, the instructions from the Premier (Mr. Peterson) were that everyone who wanted to speak on the extension of funding to Catholic schools and to the ban on extra billing would be heard. Why is that principle not good enough for the people who are affected by Bill 162? I guess there were no walls and there were no barriers during minority government, but during majority government the Liberals want to use the muzzle on citizens across the province.

I would like to read some of the names of people in Windsor who will not be heard because the Liberals have applied the muzzle on Bill 162: Gary Hewton; Robert Gallant; Mickey Bertrand, Local 89, Canadian Auto Workers; Ray Dupuis, Local 200, CAW; Bruce Boyd, Local 195, CAW; Harry Warner, Local 127, CAW; Mickey Warner, Local 82, Canadian Union of Public Employees; Jerry McCorkell, financial secretary, Local 27, CUPE; Robert Jenner, plant chairman, Local 89, CAW; Ron Seguin, president of CAW Local 616; Randy Hope, president of CAW Local 1941; Don Stewart, private citizen; Nick Dzudz, Local 1973, CAW; Robert Maroon, Local 1415, Amalgamated Transit Union.

I could read the rest of the list. It would take us all afternoon if we went through the hundreds of people whom the Liberal Party is muzzling on Bill 162.

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Mr. Runciman: In recent weeks, the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs (Mrs. Wilson) has repeatedly failed to act as an advocate for the seniors of this province.

When the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board recommended major rate increases for seniors, effectively penalizing some of the best drivers in Ontario, the minister sat idly by and told seniors that increases would be marginal. Later, when this claim turned out to be totally off base, she told seniors that the announced rates were purely speculative; that seniors should imitate her and wait for the insurance companies to announce their rates.

The seniors of this province have indicated that they are more concerned than the minister is: concerned that they will lose their 20 per cent discount and concerned that many of them will face significant increases.

This weekend Joyce King, past president of the United Senior Citizens of Ontario, echoed the sentiments of many seniors. Mrs. King pointed out that more than 50 per cent of seniors are living below the poverty line, and indicated that her own rates could rise by 60 per cent. When asked about the minister, Mrs. King stated: "I don't like her attitude. I don't think she is advocating for seniors, which should be her role in government."

Mrs. King is absolutely right. On the issue of auto insurance rates for seniors, the minister has simply not stood up for the best interests of senior citizens in this province. Regrettably, she has failed her first major test, and failed it badly.

1340

SHELTER FOR THE HOMELESS

Mr. Neumann: I would like to commend two groups which have worked with the government of Ontario to meet housing needs in Brantford. With funding assistance from the Ministry of Housing and the Ministry of Community and Social Services, the St. Leonard's Society of Brant recently opened its Albion Street residence for resourceless youth. Space is provided for up to nine young people who have no other place to live.

I recently had the opportunity to tour the residence along with my colleague the member for York Mills (Mr. J. B. Nixon), and it was heart-warming to see how much these teenagers enjoyed having a place of their own. I might add that it should also be noted that the neighbours have welcomed them with open arms and even provided them with books for their library. The not-in-my-backyard syndrome has been noticeably absent on Albion Street. Obviously, the board and staff of St. Leonard's Society have done an excellent job.

The Sisters of St. Joseph will soon be opening Bethany House, an emergency crisis centre for women and children. This project has been several years in the planning and will meet a pressing need in our community. I have worked with the sisters since this project was first proposed in 1986 and have been inspired by their energy and their commitment to Brantford.

There are other housing needs in our community which still need to be addressed, but at a recent meeting which I sponsored for local agencies interested in housing along with my colleague the member for York Mills, it soon became clear that there are many projects being planned which will do just that. Working together with the government of Ontario, these groups will help us to meet the different housing needs in our community.

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has now expired.

Mr. Neumann: Obviously, results can be achieved by working hard together.

ANNUAL REPORT, MINISTRY OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

Mr. Farnan: The Ministry of Correctional Services' annual report features the building of the head office in North Bay. Perhaps this is indicative of the politics of empire building of the ministry. Perhaps more appropriate would be the overemphasis of this ministry on incarceration, the lack of treatment of psychiatric inmates, the problems of understaffing and overcrowding and the lack of programming generally within this ministry.

Mr. Speaker: That completes the allotted time for members' statements.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

TEACHER EDUCATION

FORMATION DES ENSEIGNANTS

Hon. Mr. Ward: Today, I am releasing two reports which provide the foundation for the long-term revitalization of teacher education in Ontario.

The first report contains the recommendations of the Teacher Education Review Steering Committee. The committee's 33 recommendations pivot around the creation of an Ontario Council for Teacher Education. Today, I am pleased to announce the establishment of this council, which will advise the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mrs. McLeod) and myself on ways of shaping a quality teacher

education process to benefit both teachers and students.

To ensure appropriate and responsive French-language representation, each group of stakeholders will include at least one francophone. In addition, a French-language subcommittee will advise the council. The council will also benefit from the advice of a subcommittee comprising representatives of parent groups.

The council will be in place and operating before the beginning of the 1989-90 school year. It will be made up of 16 members representing four major stakeholders in teacher education: universities, teachers, school boards and government.

The executive director of the council will be Frank Clifford, who served as chairman of the Teacher Education Review Steering Committee. Mr. Clifford brings to his new assignment 35 years of experience as an educator, including 10 years in the field of teacher education.

The report also recommended that all matters relating to teacher education in Ontario be the responsibility of a single ministry. I am pleased to announce today that a new branch, the centre for teacher education, will be created within the Ministry of Education and will combine the current responsibilities of my ministry's professional development branch with those of the teacher education section of the Ministry of Colleges and Universities.

The centre will provide a new focus for policy development and policy implementation in the field of teacher education. Its mandate will include liaison with the Ministry of Colleges and Universities and with the faculties of education at Ontario's universities.

Both the council and the centre will be guided by an important principle emphasized in the steering committee report, that teacher education should be viewed as a continuum which begins in the undergraduate years and spans the full extent of a teacher's career.

It is my intention to direct the council to advise on the implementation of key recommendations of the steering committee. In addition, one of the key tasks of the council is to serve as a central co-ordinating body in my ministry's management of the long-term supply and demand of teachers in Ontario. Our understanding of this phenomenon has been placed in a new and more accurate perspective by the findings of the second report I am releasing today.

The report, by Professor Laverne Smith of York University, was commissioned by the Teacher Education Review Steering Committee

to investigate teacher supply-and-demand projections in Ontario.

After a pattern of steadily declining student populations, Ontario is now beginning to feel the effects of the "baby boomerang" as the children of baby-boomers enter our schools. With the sudden upturn in student enrolment, we are facing a strong need for more teachers.

As Professor Smith concludes: "It would appear that, at this moment, Ontario does not have a teacher shortage but it has a teacher shortage in its infancy. Without intervention, this shortage will become increasingly serious within the next few years and is likely to become full blown by the mid-1990s."

The effects of this increased demand for teachers have been complemented by an increased number of teacher retirements; by measures to improve the quality of education, including the preparation time for teachers; by the popularity of certain programs, notably French as both a first and second language, and by the accessing of teachers to the three-year early-retirement window.

These factors must be addressed in the long-term management of teacher supply and demand. Our new council, drawing together the key partners in teacher education, will merge the effective management of teacher supply with an improved focus on the needs of the profession. In addition, the council will recommend means of responding to the need for teachers in specific high-demand subjects, such as French-language programs, mathematics, science and technological studies at the secondary level.

I would like to conclude by briefly addressing the widely discussed shortage of teachers in Ontario this coming September.

The scope of this problem remains at this time unclear, because a few key pieces of the puzzle are still missing. We will not know until May 31 how many teachers will use the early-retirement window and we will not know final secondary school subject enrolment until students make their final selections over the next few weeks. We do know, however, that the demand will be the greatest in a handful of subject areas, in the availability of supply teachers and in high-growth boards.

With the benefit of Professor Smith's recommendations, my ministry is developing a series of potential responses to increase our teacher supply in the short term.

A total of 4,435 students are currently enrolled in Ontario faculties of education, an increase of some 13 per cent above last year. Some 290

students are enrolled in the two French-language faculties. I am working with my colleague the Minister of Colleges and Universities to ensure significant enrolment increases at the faculties this fall.

While this large supply of teachers will fill a considerable portion of the anticipated need, several growth-area boards are also addressing their demands by hiring from applications already on file. However, it is already clear that we cannot expect to meet all the demands this fall through our faculties of education alone.

In this context, my ministry is processing nearly 1,500 applications for letters of eligibility from out-of-province teachers, a 60 per cent increase over last year.

In addition, my ministry is currently exploring the viability of the following options for augmenting the short-term teacher supply:

Removing, for a limited period, impediments in provincial legislation which restrict our retired teachers from returning to teaching to offer their expertise for a few extra years, particularly in a supply-teaching role.

Encouraging retired teachers to participate in more short-term teaching assignments. Currently, retired teachers are restricted to a maximum of 20 days of work per year, a limit which could possibly be relaxed.

Attracting the estimated 5,000 teacher graduates from the past five years not hired by school boards. Boards might consider offering these potential teachers salary enhancements for their related work experience in specialized areas, such as technical education.

Other possible measures to assist boards include the adoption of a common hiring date, a central registry of teacher personnel and the formation of a new database to help determine our needs in specific subject areas, such as French immersion, science and math.

The supply and demand of teachers in Ontario, both in the short and long term, call for careful, responsible management. We must ensure that the availability of quality teaching professionals tracks the expectations for excellence we place upon our system of education. It is essential that our decisions be pertinent, well planned and workable. Our short-term proposals and long-term answers will fulfil these requirements.

1350

Hon. Mrs. McLeod: I also welcome the final report of the Teacher Education Review Steering Committee.

I was pleased to hear the report confirm that the present system, which prepares students for

their chosen vocation of teaching, produces good results.

I also welcome the proposal by the committee for the creation of the Ontario Council on Teacher Education.

Our teacher education institutions have increased enrolments by 20 per cent over the last three years. However, there continues to be a demand for teachers in certain regions of this province and in several specific subject areas.

Last year when I approved the establishment of the program adjustment envelope we identified teacher education as one of our priorities. We have just earmarked \$5.1 million over four years from this fund for teacher pre-service enrolments. Of that, \$2.2 million will be allocated to our teacher education institutions this year.

This funding will enable these institutions to increase their teacher pre-service enrolments in September by an additional 385 places. That will bring total enrolments to 4,820.

Demand for teachers is particularly high in several of our major urban centres. Through increase of enrolments at the University of Ottawa, Queen's University, the University of Windsor and York University, we hope to ease these regional needs.

En outre, un grand nombre de ces nouveaux étudiants s'inscriront à des programmes d'étude qui répondent à des besoins pressants, notamment dans l'enseignement du français langue maternelle et du français langue seconde, et dans l'enseignement des mathématiques et des sciences au secondaire.

The Minister of Education (Mr. Ward) outlined the establishment of a distinct teacher education branch in his ministry. Program responsibility for teacher education will now be more closely linked to the development of policy for elementary and secondary schools.

The Ministry of Colleges and Universities will maintain its liaison activities and its role of providing funding for teacher education programs at our universities. As well, we will be able to share our opinions and concerns related to teacher education as a regular member of the OCTE.

CARDIAC SURGERY

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I rise today to table the independent investigators' report on cardiac surgery at St. Michael's Hospital and to inform members of the steps my ministry will take in response to the report's recommendations.

The investigating team was asked to report on the scheduling of heart surgery at St. Michael's Hospital and to identify other factors affecting the management of cardiac surgery cases. I want to thank the investigators, two of whom are in the gallery today—Vickie Kaminski and Dr. William Sibbald—for the thoroughness of their report and the quality of their recommendations.

The report identifies factors specifically affecting surgery at St. Michael's, as well as factors that have had an impact on the delivery of cardiac surgery services across the province. The report notes: "St. Michael's Hospital has a long-standing and distinguished reputation for the care it has provided to its patients. The hospital has made a clear and focused commitment to patients with all types of cardiac disease."

I am pleased to report that St. Michael's has agreed to take immediate action in response to the investigators' findings. Ministry staff will be working with the hospital to ensure that needed changes are implemented, the number one priority being an effective scheduling system for surgery.

The report clearly demonstrates that the problems we are encountering in providing cardiac surgery are complex and cannot be reduced to underfunding or lack of resources. The recommendations directly involve all participants in the system—hospitals, doctors, nurses, administrators, support staff, the Ministry of Health and the public we serve.

I agree with the overall thrust of the recommendations and I am moving to implement them as quickly as possible.

I am today announcing a six-point plan of action consisting of further development, evaluation and expansion of the Metro Toronto cardiovascular triage and registry program to other parts of the province; development of standardized guidelines and definitions for assessing urgent, elective and emergency cases; development of a public education program on cardiac disease and treatment; review of staffing requirements; improved communication within and among hospitals providing cardiac care, and establishment of appropriate performance targets for each of the cardiac surgery centres.

This will be implemented by a multidisciplinary provincial working group for cardiovascular services. I am directing ministry staff to meet as soon as possible with board chairmen, chief executive officers and chiefs of cardiology and cardiovascular surgery of the nine cardiac surgery centres, as well as the deans of medicine,

to discuss steps needed to implement many of the report's recommendations. As the report makes clear, hospitals are accountable for the management of hospital resources and patient services.

I have also asked the ministry's cardiovascular co-ordinator to seek the expert advice of cardiovascular surgeons on issues requiring immediate action, including the introduction of a system to refer patients to the hospital that can provide the necessary care in the most appropriate manner.

The report identifies difficulties in some hospitals in staffing cardiac and critical care services. As members know, I recently announced regulatory changes to increase the role of nurses in hospital decision-making. I will continue to work with nurses to seek solutions to nursing issues.

As the report notes, our system of cardiovascular services is strong and provides excellent patient care. In the words of the report, "We commend the participants in Ontario's health care system (physicians, hospital nursing, administrative and perfusion staff of hospitals and Ministry of Health officials) for the current strengths of the province's cardiovascular program which has benefited many in this province."

A number of initiatives are already under way to increase the availability of cardiac surgery. I believe that taking action on the recommendations of this report will lead to greater integration of services and better co-operation among centres to strengthen our provincial care network.

I would once again like to thank the investigators named in the report: Mrs. Vickie Kaminski, lead investigator, assistant executive director of nursing, Sudbury Memorial Hospital; Dr. William Sibbald, co-ordinator of critical care/trauma unit, Victoria Hospital Corp., clinical professor of medicine, University of Western Ontario; and Elizabeth M. Davis, RSM, executive director, St. Clare's Mercy Hospital, St. John's, Newfoundland.

RESPONSES

TEACHER EDUCATION

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I would like to respond to the statement by the Minister of Education (Mr. Ward) on teacher shortages, in which he has told us that the Titanic is not sinking, and even if it is he has a rubber patch ready to place on the sinking ship. He then enumerates a number of ludicrous suggestions, most of which indicate there is going to be an enormous problem.

The minister still claims there will not be a major shortage this fall. I would like to bring him a little reality therapy, if I might.

The Teachers' Superannuation Commission predicts that 4,000 teacher retirements will take place this year. There are only 4,000 graduates from the schools of education this year alone, so all the retirements are going to take up that number of graduates. We also know the minister's own plans for lowering class sizes in grades 1 and 2 are going to take up to 4,000 new teachers; at least 1,000 teachers per year. So there is an extra 1,000 teachers we need above what is already there.

We already know as well, of course, that the system is expanding and that we can identify enormous growth areas of Ontario in terms of programs and numbers of students. If you were to survey just the 20 boards around Metropolitan Toronto alone, you could find that they are going to be hiring 4,000 new teachers themselves this year. If you take out the retirement figures from that group, you are talking of approximately 3,000 additional teachers in the system above those we are graduating in Ontario at this point.

What this means is that either we are going to be doing an enormous amount of offshore hiring, letters of permission and that kind of thing, which we had back in the 1960s because of the terrible planning of the government, or programs like lowering class size are going to have to be cut, or programs like French classes in Ontario, which are desired by the population, are not going to be able to be followed.

1400

If I take just four boards in Metropolitan Toronto—the Metropolitan Separate School Board, the York Region Board of Education, the Toronto Board of Education, elementary panel only, and the Scarborough Board of Education—they need 1,100 new teachers on top of those who will be retiring.

What we have is a minister who has no clue about just how severe this problem is going to be, who then suggests to us that he is going to have an early retirement plan for people, which we approved in Bill 30, and now he is going to make it easier for those teachers to come back into the system. Does he not understand what he has to do? They should all retire now and all come back in and double-dip. It is a ludicrous suggestion by a government that is out of touch with the problems that are out there.

CARDIAC SURGERY

Mr. Reville: The astounding statement today of the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) demands

the sternest possible response. What she has done is to absolutely incorrectly characterize what this report says with all sorts of self-serving claptrap that just does not wash.

What this report says is that her stewardship of the health care system in this province is utterly bankrupt. What this report says is that there are not enough resources. What this report says is that the Ministry of Health has done nothing meaningful to deal with the absolutely critical shortage of qualified personnel to care for people who have heart problems in this province.

I can hardly contain myself, as members can probably tell. It is amazing to me that the spin doctors have found something good to say about the contents of this report. That simply is not what the report says.

The report goes on and on about the undercapacity of this minister's system. It goes on and on about her failure to deal with the nursing crisis as she continues to hide behind a scarcely believable reliance on and praise of the collective bargaining system, which of course anybody who knows anything in this province does not suspect this government of being capable of. It does not indicate that this government has taken meaningful action in terms of the nursing shortage, which is clearly developed in this report in an absolutely damning way.

I am amazed the minister had enough nerve to stand up today and deliver that foolish speech she made and I think it is time for her to resign.

TEACHER EDUCATION

Mr. Harris: I would like to respond to the statement by the Minister of Education (Mr. Ward).

I would like to congratulate Professor Laverne Smith of York University, who commissioned a report pleading, I would suggest, with this government to look at the knee-jerk type of short-term policies in conflict with one another that have contributed to and exacerbated the very serious teacher shortage problem that we have.

The report highlights and points out the exact contrast to the minister's statement. He says, "The supply and demand of teachers in Ontario, both in the short and long term, call for careful, responsible management." That is what the minister says. That is clearly not what has taken place over the past three years.

He also says, "It is essential that our decisions be pertinent, well planned and workable." When we have a teacher shortage, a severe problem, in conjunction with an early window retirement program to get more out, how does that make

sense? That is the one agenda item I see in the speech which the minister wants to share with the New Democratic Party, saying that was part of the accord. I suppose he is trying to shift some of the blame over there.

The minister is the government and he is the one who has made these silly decisions.

In 1968-69 I attended the faculty of education in North Bay. There were 600 students. Today, with this tremendous shortage, there are about 210. We have been pleading with the Minister of Education, with the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mrs. McLeod) and with the Premier (Mr. Peterson), year after year, that there is a severe problem. There are about 900 to 1,000 applications and all the minister will let in is 200 to an institution that at one time, when I attended it, handled 600.

At the same time, the minister announces, ad hoc, "We are going to reduce class size," with no consultation with educators as to whether that will lead to double or triple grading and more problems than are there, with no understanding of the fact that he does not have enough teachers in the classrooms now to meet the existing supply and demand.

It has been an ad hoc, knee-jerk reaction throughout. The only person who shows any sign of understanding is Professor Smith. I hope, since the minister would not listen to us and would not listen to the professionals in the past three years, maybe he will listen to him and salvage something in the future.

CARDIAC SURGERY

Mr. Eves: I would like to respond to the statement made today by the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan). The Minister of Health has been telling us in this Legislature for the last several months that the number of heart surgery procedures done in Metropolitan Toronto—

Mr. Black: More surgery isn't better health.

Mr. Eves: Every time I have brought up these statistics, she has disputed them. Maybe she would like to refer to page 26 of this report, which confirms what we on this side of the House have been saying for months and she has been denying.

The number of cases she is doing has steadfastly decreased from 1985 to now: 2,709; 2,687; 2,612; 2,558. She is going in the wrong direction. She is doing less and less, not more and more. Despite the fact she tells the public she is doing more and more, she is doing less.

"Shortage of Qualified Personnel." I refer the minister to page 68 of the report. "What is less

well enunciated is a plan to solve the critical shortage of nurses." That plan rests with the minister in her initiative as Minister of Health in this province.

"This step has been taken primarily in response to tighter budgetary controls although there are also concerns for quality of care and continuity of care." This is talking about hospitals being able to use agencies to hire nurses. They cannot do so because of the budgetary restraints the minister has placed on hospitals. It is identified right here on page 68 of her own report.

"A reduction in cardiovascular surgery residency training positions, together with an expansion of cardiovascular surgical resources, have led to this problem." They are talking about trained medical assistance for cardiovascular surgeons. Her predecessor announced a reduction of residency positions in Ontario. I have asked her about it in this House several times and she has stood up and defended the position and the policy of the government. This report is very critical of the government, on page 68 and other pages.

I ask the minister to read the summary. I do not know how she can possibly get the interpretation out of this report that she read in the House. On page 74, in the summary section, it says, "At the same time we recognize that there are problems with resources and personnel in Ontario, especially in Toronto, which require immediate attention"—not studies, but immediate attention—"if the cardiovascular program is to restore its balance....If Ontario does not devise a system to monitor and manage change—

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has now expired.

Mr. Eves:—"the province's health care system will go from crisis"—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member's time has lapsed.

ORAL QUESTIONS

GOVERNMENT'S RECORD

Mr. B. Rae: I have a question to the Premier. The two statements that were made today by the Minister of Education (Mr. Ward) and the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) I think point to a broader and deeper underlying problem at the heart of the Premier's government; that is, we have here two instances, very clear cases, where he is sitting on top of major crises and simply panicking in response.

Can the Premier explain the extraordinary paralysis at the heart of this government which would have produced the two kinds of statements we have seen today?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: That is the most outrageous question I have heard in this House in the last four years. If the member wants to talk about paralysis, they are so paralysed that they cannot even ask a decent question today. They have been sitting here wasting the time of this Legislature. Talk about a paralysed opposition. Mr. Speaker, if you were us sitting here, you would be bored too looking at these people.

Mr. B. Rae: We had two examples today of the paralysis. Let's go over it. He promised pension indexing; he has done nothing on pension indexing. He promised to move on hours of work; he has done nothing on hours of work. He promised to deal with the Thomson report; he has done nothing with the Thomson report. He promised to deal with the day care crisis; he has people lined up outside the door on day care.

He promised to deal with the question of care at home for senior citizens, and we have a system which has been described by every major homemakers' organization in the province as in complete disarray. He is sitting on reports. He has reports, piled high up in his office, on every major problem of public policy in this province, and he has not moved to deal with these questions. My simple question is, why has he not dealt with any of these problems?

1410

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I, with great respect to my friend opposite, reject his analysis of this situation, as I do his analysis of every other situation. I say with some pride, to my friend opposite, that this government is regarded as a leader across this country and across North America—I say that with some pride—in the environment, occupational health and safety, the health care system and education technology. I say to the member that if he cannot think of a better question than that, he is going to have the same problem as Ed Broadbent.

Mr. B. Rae: The Premier's smile gives away the sincerity of his answer to the question. He knows perfectly well the problem that he is facing. We have the problem of frail elderly in our institutions. He is sitting on three reports, which he has had for years now, on the question of what he is going to do. He has reports on pension indexing, which he has completely and totally failed to move on. He has reports on hours of work, which he has totally failed to move on.

He has reports on early retirement, which he has completely failed to move on. The list goes on and on. We have a Nursing Homes Act, which was supposed to force nursing home owners to disclose their finances. He has not even introduced any of the regulations dealing with changes, which he made back in 1987.

I want to ask the Premier again, can he explain the extraordinary paralysis at the heart of his regime, of his administration, when it comes to every major area of public policy in this province—every one?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I guess reality is in the eye of the beholder. I remember a time when my friend opposite thought he won the last election, and he was only brought back to reality by the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breugh). I say to my friend that his analysis has been wrong on every occasion so far, and it continues to be so.

CARDIAC SURGERY

Mr. B. Rae: I have a question to the Minister of Health, dealing with a report which was made today. There is an extraordinary discrepancy between the report and the statement that the minister made. I would ask the minister, if she has the report in front of her, to turn to page 68. Does she have the report there? She does not even have the report in front of her. She has the statement, but she does not have the report.

Hon. Mr. Scott: What is this, some kind of class? You would think we were at Oxford. Turn to page 68, give me a break.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Cue cards.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. B. Rae: I would ask the minister to turn to page 68. I do not know whether she has read the report; I hope she has. She says on page 2 of her statement that the problems are complex and cannot be reduced to underfunding or lack of resources. Page 68 deals with the question of the shortage of qualified personnel.

I wonder if the minister can possibly square the statement that she makes, when she says it cannot be reduced to underfunding or lack of resources, when the report says this clearly: "Four major studies have been undertaken in response to the shortage of nurses"—I am quoting from the report—"The problems are well enunciated in these studies"—in these four studies, which the minister is aware of—"The conclusions of these studies are consistent. What is less well enunciated is a plan to solve the critical shortage."

This report talks about a critical shortage of nurses. I want to ask the minister, what is her

plan to solve this critical shortage of nurses? Let her tell us, enunciate it now for us.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: First, I would like to say to the Leader of the Opposition that the report also notes how important it is for us to recognize that the services in Ontario are strong, and that this report builds on a fundamentally strong system and will, as these recommendations are implemented, make a good system and good services even better.

I would say to him that he is aware of a number of initiatives which have recently been undertaken in the area of dealing with the whole nursing issue in this province. We have had occasions and numerous opportunities in this House to discuss them.

I can tell the member that we are working co-operatively with all of the nursing associations: those representing the nurses in their union; those representing the other professional points of view, as well as with the hospitals. The new regulations which we have just announced and brought in I believe will go a long way as we encourage nurses to participate more strongly in hospital decision-making processes, to in fact resolve those quality-of-working-life issues which are affecting the profession in Ontario.

Mr. B. Rae: I was listening for and waiting to hear a plan from the minister. I do not think any of us heard a plan today—

Mr. Farnan: There is no plan.

Mr. B. Rae: —because there obviously is not one. I want to say to the minister, when she says that the problems cannot be reduced to underfunding or lack of resources, perhaps she would like to look at the next sentence to the one I have just finished reading which says: "Compounding the provincial shortage, there has been a discontinuance of the use of agency/registry nurses in some hospitals which have traditionally used these nurses for as high as 10 to 15 per cent of their total nursing staff. This step has been taken primarily in response to tighter budgetary controls..."

I wonder if the minister can tell us: If budgetary controls are cited specifically in the report as one of the reasons why hospitals are not going to agencies, how can she stand up in her place and say that underfunding and a lack of resources are not problems when it comes to solving these critical shortages? The words "critical shortage" are not used by me alone; they are used now by this report which the minister—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you; the question has been asked.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The Leader of the Opposition will know that hospitals that are run by boards of trustees and professional administrators are responsible and accountable for the policies that they establish for their hospitals regarding hiring practices and policies.

I would say to him as well that if he wants to have a quote on the resource allocation, on page 71 the investigators say: "We have identified a major shortage in the utilization of resources intended for cardiovascular surgery in Toronto. There is no question that the Ministry of Health has provided additional funding through the budgetary system for increased services."

Mr. Reville: Turn the page and read what it says on page 72.

Mrs. Grier: They did not give her that page.

Mr. B. Rae: I cannot believe the answers. First of all, I could not believe the statement, because it was such an inadequate reflection of the seriousness of the report.

We have a report which was commissioned to deal primarily with a problem which the minister incorrectly identified as being unique to St. Michael's Hospital. The committee looked at the situation at St. Mike's and said: "Look, you haven't got a problem at St. Mike's, you have a problem right through the system. It is endemic to the system; it is part of the system and it is a problem of a system which is not well-planned, well-managed or well-financed," and that is obvious from what is being said in this report.

I wonder, given the direct criticism of the ministry which is contained in these documents of the administration of a very important aspect of our health care system in this province, can the minister tell us why she should not resign?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: In fact, in response, I think it is very appropriate to say to the Leader of the Opposition how pleased I have been with the response from the hospitals providing cardiovascular care in this province, and particularly from the chairman of the board of St. Michael's Hospital.

Mr. Dilworth said, "It is vital that we do all that we can, all that is possible, to ensure that patients with the most critical needs have those needs met as quickly as possible."

He also went on to state, "All nine Ontario hospitals will look carefully at the process of prioritizing the allocation of resources for critical care, as well as issues concerning cardiac surgery waiting lists."

We know that what is at issue, in this issue and in others, is the need for hospitals to work together; to work together with the ministry to

make sure that resources are allocated in such a way as to make sure that those who are in most urgent need receive that on a priority basis. I can say to the Leader of the Opposition that I am pleased with the response from the board chairman; from the hospitals; from administrators; from doctors and from nurses in their willingness to work together with the ministry, as we make a good system even better in the future.

1420

Mr. Eves: I have a question for the Minister of Health as well. During statements I pointed out the findings on page 26 of the report to the minister. They conclusively state that there are fewer and fewer heart surgery cases being performed in Metropolitan Toronto every year, that they have consistently decreased from 1985 through to 1988.

On page 68 of the report, as I and the leader of the official opposition have pointed out, it says, "What is less well enunciated is a plan to solve the critical shortage" in nursing. Then they go on to say, as we pointed out to the minister during statements, that "This step has been taken primarily in response to tighter budgetary controls," which the minister and her government introduced, "although there are also concerns for quality of care and continuity of care."

Does the minister disagree with any of those statements this report has made, that there are fewer procedures being performed every year, that she has no well-enunciated plan to solve the nursing shortage in the province—

Mr. Speaker: Minister.

Mr. Eves: —and that the monetary and budgetary policy of her ministry, which she imposed on the hospitals in this province, has led to this shortage?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member has asked the question.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: If the critic for the third party is going to quote from the report, I will do so as well. On page 42, and I think this is very important, it says, "As waiting lists, waiting times and cancellations increased, more attention focused on individual patients by the politicians in the Legislative Assembly and by the media."

Mr. Eves: The time for ministerial statements expired.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: This is extremely important. "A lack of knowledge of the functioning of the health care system sometimes leads politicians and reporters to assume conclusions which are not fully accurate."

Mr. Eves: The lack of responsibility and initiative by the Minister of Health leads to dangerous consequences.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I have said on numerous occasions that the member opposite does not listen. He does not want to hear this. He assumes conclusions which are not fully accurate. That is right here in the report. I would say to him that the bottom line under this section on page 43 says, "We believe that the public and the Legislature must allow hospitals, physicians and the Ministry of Health to work together to constructively address such issues in a reasonable and collaborative fashion." That is what we are doing.

Mr. Eves: For a year the minister stood in her place and told us there was no nursing shortage in Ontario. Now it is outlined here in black and white and she wants to read from a different page.

Mr. Speaker: Do you have a supplementary?

Mr. Eves: What about the issue of residency positions, seeing as how we did not get an answer to the one about nursing shortages? It says, "A reduction in cardiovascular surgery residency training positions, together with an expansion of surgical resources, have led to this problem." Does she disagree with that statement?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I would point out to the member opposite, if he will listen for just a moment, that Sudbury Memorial Hospital has a very fine cardiovascular surgery program and has no residents. They have staffed their program with well-trained nurses and other staff.

Mr. Eves: So you disagree with this conclusion? We don't need residency physicians?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I can say to him it is very important that we factually and accurately present a picture to this public, which watches the proceedings in this Legislature, that is fully accurate as we proceed to, as I said before, build on the foundation of a fine health care system in Ontario, and as we criticize it responsibly make a commitment to make it even better.

Mr. Eves: This is almost unbelievable. These are facts found by an investigation that the minister appointed, and she refuses to acknowledge any of them. Is she tired of page 68? We will turn to page 71. How about the cardiovascular surgery unit at Sunnybrook Medical Centre, which the minister said would be open, and I quote, "almost immediately"? Almost immediately was about eight months ago, and we now find out we will be lucky if it is rolling by the fall of 1989.

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. Eves: Let's turn to page 74 if she does not like that page. This is the summary. She should be able to read that. Maybe it is the only part of the report she has read. "If Ontario does not devise a system to monitor and manage change, the province's health care system will go from crisis to crisis," as the minister has been doing, "and public confidence will continue to be eroded." Does the minister agree with that statement or not, yes or no?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: In the numerous discussions we have had in this House during estimates, during question period and at every opportunity, we have talked about how important it is for us to work together co-operatively and collaboratively, not only as we manage change but as we plan for the future. I would say to the member that in the implementation of these recommendations, we believe that by encouraging hospitals to work together co-operatively with the ministry, we will build the kind of network that will result in improved quality in patient care right across this province.

Mr. Eves: People are dying on the waiting list.

Mr. Speaker: We will wait for the member for Parry Sound.

EXTENDED CARE

Mr. Brandt: My question is for the Premier, and I hope he likes this question. He has not liked any other questions that have been asked so far this afternoon, so I will try to give him one that will not bore him and that he may want to respond to.

I am sure the Premier is well aware of the fact that there is a very substantial and very significant difference in funding between municipal homes for the aged and the nursing homes in Ontario. He is also aware, I am sure, of the court case which is presently under way with respect to this particular question.

Is the Premier prepared to step in and attempt to overcome the difference in funding between these two providers of health care in this province or, alternatively, is the Premier simply going to wait until the court case strings out? It may take some long period of time before a resolution is seen to this particular problem. What is he going to do about it?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: My honourable friend points to an anomaly in the system that we inherited from his administration.

Mr. Brandt: Well, do something about it.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: We are doing a lot of things about a lot of the problems they have created, I am telling my friend; and if he stands up here on the road to Damascus and recants all of the things that they did and the messes we have to clean up, I am happy to admit that we are in court because of their policies on that matter.

I say to my friend that it is probably not appropriate to comment, the matter being in court.

Mr. Brandt: Perhaps that kind of response had some validity six months or a year after the Premier took office. Fully four years after he has sat in that seat as Premier of this province, he has a responsibility to clear up a funding differential that fully amounts to 33 per cent difference between how some of our senior citizens are being treated in homes for the aged and how some of our senior citizens are being treated in nursing homes.

Can the Premier justify having some senior citizens being given more money in one facility and other senior citizens being given less money in another facility? Can his government justify that?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Let me ask him—and I compliment my honourable friend on his temerity—how does he justify it, because he created the system? We are trying to get out of the mess that his government caused. How does he have the temerity to stand up in this House and ask the question? It absolutely amazes me how utterly shameless my friends opposite are when they stand up to accuse us in this phoney tone of moral rectitude of not solving in a short space of time their problems that they created over the years.

He should be embarrassed to stand up, but I want to say this: He looks very handsome with his new tan, and welcome back.

Mr. Brandt: When one talks about temerity and puffing oneself up in talking about a former government that was in place some four years ago, he cannot justify an entire series of programs which are crumbling under his administration. He can take some action to correct a problem which is very serious and which had to be taken to court in order to get his government to move on it.

He has problems with health; he has problems with housing; he has problems with virtually every ministry in his entire government. Here is one problem we can give him a solution to: Treat all senior citizens in this province equally. That is what we are asking for.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I do not know if that is a question, but again I ask my friend how he can summon up all this unction and moral rectitude and tell us and lecture us when he did the exact opposite when he was in a position to do something about it. What accounts for sanctimony? Maybe it is going over to that side of the House. Maybe that is what causes the whole situation, I have no idea.

But I want to tell my friend that when he looks at the record of this government in a whole range of areas, when we are dealing with the highest-growth economy in the industrialized world, when we are putting in changes of programs in the environment and in health care, we are determined to make sure that our system remains affordable and accessible for all, that we are going to make sure that we do not run into the problems.

We solved the great problems that they created, be it pension deficits, be it unfunded liabilities. They stuck every problem on the back burner and we have to deal with them now. And I will tell him this: we are dealing with them.

Their idea is the politics of avoidance; our idea is to wrestle with these problems. They did not care about the future; we do. That is why I say to my tanned friend opposite that he is going to be sitting there for another four years.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. We will just wait if you want to waste time. New question, the member for Scarborough West.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The House just sort of fell into the credibility gap, that was the difficulty I think.

1430

TEACHERS

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I have a question for the Minister of Education regarding his problems with teacher shortages. I can understand and have some sympathy for his problems given that they are not all his but that one of the gang of four left him with the lack of planning that has put us in this preposterous situation.

I would just like to ask the minister if he still wishes to stick by his indication that this is only a problem in certain areas when he knows now from the Teachers' Superannuation Commission that retirements alone across Ontario will take at least all the graduates that we have. There are communities like Ottawa with 120 retirements and London with 128 retirements. London, I point out to the Premier (Mr. Peterson), does not

have one supply teacher right now in either math or sciences.

Will the minister tell me how it is that we got to this position where we are going to be thousands of teachers short this fall?

Hon. Mr. Ward: I do have to say to my friend the member for Scarborough West that although I do recognize that there are indeed some short-term problems in terms of the situation of teacher supply, I believe that we are responding in a very orderly, manageable and responsible way.

The member talks of this situation as being some sort of insurmountable problem. I do not believe it to be so. As a matter of fact, if he wants to use some figures and some examples in terms of needs, he should recognize that last year alone there were over 6,000 new entrants to the teaching profession in Ontario.

He talks of the need of certain boards, and I will give him some examples. The Halton Board of Education, for instance, will require 152 teachers next year and has 961 applications on file. The Durham Board of Education, which will require 360 teachers next year, has 1,075 applications on file.

I would point out to my friend that we do believe that the situation is easily manageable. We will not sacrifice quality in the teaching profession just to respond to the member and others who have their fingers poised over the panic button.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I know from time to time it is important for a minister to posture as an ostrich with his head in the sand.

The question again is around shortages. I would like to ask the minister this with regard to their reduction of class size. The Premier in the last election promised in the first year, in 1987-88, that he would reduce class size to 20:1. Then the government moved it, because that would have taken 4,000 teachers, over to a three-year to four-year period, about 1,000 teachers per year required.

Is he now going to have to curtail that promise even further than he already has or is he going to pretend today that that is not going to get touched by this either?

Hon. Mr. Ward: I am glad the member has raised that particular issue. He will know that I stood in this House well over a year ago and pointed out that after extensive consultation with both school boards and teaching professionals in this province, we had come through with an orderly and manageable process to achieve what I believe to be perhaps one of the most

worthwhile initiatives undertaken in elementary education in this province in many, many years.

The member will also know that we established targets and we established a phased-in implementation process. He will know by now that not only did we meet the target of the first year, we exceeded our goal in reducing class sizes in the elementary grades. We substantially enhanced elementary school programs and brought forward a number of initiatives. The member knows full well that not only are we meeting that commitment, we are exceeding it.

HOUSING FIRST PROGRAM

Mr. Harris: I have a question to the Minister of Housing, relating to the Housing First policy between the minister and her counterpart the Minister of Government Services (Mr. Patten). Under this program, announced with great fanfare last spring, the first priority for the use and disposal of government land is for the creation of more housing for low- and moderate-income earners.

Many are wondering where the minister was when the Ontario government recently sold land in Cambridge, where the housing crunch is little better than it is in Toronto and where the vacancy rate according to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. figures for 1989 is actually worse than Toronto. I would like to ask her specifically why 185 acres of provincial land were sold last week, for industrial use only, at close to one quarter of the market value.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The member opposite will know, because I have explained our policy in the House before, that the Housing First policy identifies land which is surplus to government use and indicates that its first purpose will be housing if it is appropriate to housing use. That decision is made by the government, in particular by the Ministry of Government Services, and our commitment is that, on all the surplus lands that are so identified, 35 per cent of the units that are built—and that is a floor, not a ceiling—are meant to be affordable, meaning to reach the needs of low- and moderate-income people.

I cannot comment on a specific piece of land at this point, but I think that the member should know we have already announced eight pieces of land, many of them in Metropolitan Toronto, to be treated in this way. There will be more announcements coming. We are looking at all the land that is available to us and, as I understand it, the land that the member is talking about was zoned for industrial purposes and is meant to be used that way.

Mr. Harris: It appears to me, other than a little comment from the minister who whispered in her ear, that the minister did not know anything about this. This is not the name of the game or the policy that she announced for government land.

It is my clear understanding that industrial land in the Cambridge area is not in short supply, but there is obviously a serious housing shortage in that area, a problem more severe by the numbers than there is here in Metropolitan Toronto. It appears to me as though the policy of the government should read: development first; housing second, third, fourth, if at all.

According to the industry commissioner's office in the city of Cambridge, market value for the piece of land is between \$16 million and \$24 million; yet this government let it go for a whopping \$4.4 million. Even if the minister intends to take profits, as she said at some time, and commit them to housing, it makes no sense to sell it for 25 per cent of the market value.

I would like to ask the minister again how she can reconcile this with her stated objective, that it is Housing First when she disposes of government land.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: Our policy is extremely clear, and I find it difficult to understand why the member opposite has not so far managed to grasp it. Let me try again. The policy says that our land which is appropriate for housing will be used for that purpose. This land is zoned industrial. The details about the way in which government treats land are, of course, the responsibility of the Ministry of Government Services.

We have been using the land in the province that is appropriate for housing for the purpose of housing. I have initiated discussions with the new federal Minister of Housing, to see if he can urge his federal colleagues to make land that the federal government owns available for the same purposes and in similar ways.

The member opposite is very exercised about this issue, and I invite him to add his voice, as one that is very influential with the members of his party in Ottawa, in exactly the same aim as mine, which is to increase the supply of housing out there and the amount of land that is available for that purpose.

1440

ALCOHOL AND DRUG ADDICTION

Mr. Morin: I have a question for the Minister of Health. A few weeks ago, a number of concerned teenagers from Orleans in Gloucester staged a three-day protest to emphasize their

need for a drop-in centre and a crisis hotline for the troubled teens in the community. The problems facing these teenagers include pregnancies, troubles at home and at school, and drug addiction.

My question to the minister is, what is the Ministry of Health doing to meet the needs of the teenagers of Orleans?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I would like to acknowledge the member's interest in this issue. He has spoken to me about it. As the House will know, the Premier (Mr. Peterson) announced a doubling of funding for addiction programs in recognition of the need to increase access to these important services in the province.

Since last spring, my ministry has funded 37 new or expanded drug and alcohol counselling and education programs for young people, three of which are in the Ottawa-Carleton area. I can tell the member that the Orleans program which he referred to was not a recommendation by the district health council in Ottawa.

Mr. Morin: Federal health statistics show that there are at least 7,000 teenagers in the Ottawa-Carleton area who are addicted to drugs and alcohol. In view of the fact that it costs the Ontario health insurance plan \$23,000 to send a child to a for-profit clinic in the United States, an approximate expenditure of \$15 million in 1988, would the minister consider redirecting those funds towards building a much-needed rehabilitation centre in Ontario?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I would say to the member that in fact funding decisions are based on prioritization by district health councils. In Ontario, long-term care is available at a number of locations: Stonehenge in Guelph, Alwood in Carleton Place, the Donwood Institute in Toronto, Brentwood in Windsor and the l'Arc-en-ciel in Opatika.

Although some may require long-term in-patient treatment, recent research has shown that for the majority of patients, outpatient and community-based programs are very effective. For the member's information, we currently fund 24 community mental health and addiction programs in the Ottawa-Carleton area, and I can assure the member, who has a real dedication in this area, that we will continue to review existing programs and, as resources are available, continue to make improvements.

CONVERSION OF RENTAL ACCOMMODATION

Mr. Philip: I have a question for the Minister of Housing: 3380 South Millway is a 100-unit

town home complex in Mississauga. Although technically registered as a condominium, it has been a rental project for seven years. A few days ago, the tenants were surprised to discover that an open house was being held and their units were being sold. Only 20 of the 100 families are in a position to purchase their units, so 80 families are in fact facing eviction as those units are sold.

Can the minister tell the House why she is not prepared to close the loophole in her own Rental Housing Protection Act so that tenants like the 80 families in Mississauga will not face eviction?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I know the member opposite is referring to the Rental Housing Protection Act, and the concern he has raised is one that I think is worth raising. The important thing to say here is that in this province we treat the ownership of a condominium in the same way that we treat the ownership of any other residence. What that means is that someone who buys a house or a home of any sort, whether it is standing on a lot all by itself or is a town house, an attached house or a condominium, has the right to rent that property to someone else if he or she chooses, and also has the right to move into that property himself or herself if he or she chooses.

We believe that is a reasonable position to take, and that is the point of view we have taken on this matter. We have, however, taken significant measures to protect people in rental accommodation in a variety of other ways in our new version of the Rental Housing Protection Act, which the member opposite well knows. I believe it is important to treat ownership of housing in the same way, no matter what physical form it takes.

Mr. Philip: The minister will know that this has not been owned by individual home owners who are going to try to move back but rather by one or two developers who have owned the property for a period of seven years.

The minister has recently announced, for the third time, her Homes Now program, which she claims will create 30,000 new rental units over a five-year period of time. Does the minister not realize that she is losing the battle when she is using tax money to bring about new rental accommodation while, by her own admission, some three times the number of units she claims she will be creating can in fact disappear because she refuses to plug this loophole in her own act? Why is she not prepared to put in that plug in that act?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The member opposite knows very well that tenants of all sorts in this province are protected by the Landlord and Tenant Act.

He should also know that in the new version of the Rental Housing Protection Act, which we are bringing forward and which he will have an opportunity to comment on further, we are saying the only way a tenant may be asked to leave the accommodation he is in is if the person who buys the apartment himself wishes to move in. So it is only if someone wishes to move into his own unit that this could possibly happen.

I think that is a reasonable way to handle this. I believe what we have done makes sense. We have also increased the protection for tenants in rental accommodation all over the province in a variety of ways which the member well knows.

CARDIAC SURGERY

Mr. Eves: I have another question for the Minister of Health. This report is dated February 15, 1989. How come the minister is introducing it in the House on February 28?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Following receipt of the report, I read it carefully and I would recommend it to the member. I met with the investigating team to discuss personally its findings. The report makes recommendations not only for the Ministry of Health and St. Michael's Hospital, but for hospitals and surgeons. Collectively and collaboratively, we have been discussing how to implement the recommendations of the report as we take the kind of action to ensure that we move positively and confidently into the future.

Mr. Eves: I find it passing strange that a report that has so many serious recommendations to make to the Minister of Health, a report which she did not have a copy of—I had to send her a copy during the first question of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. B. Rae) on this matter—I do not know why she would sit on this report for two weeks.

What type of action is the minister going to take in response to all the critical comments and conclusions that this report comes to? If she wants to deal with the summary section again, on page 74, it says, "At the same time, we recognize that there are problems with resources and personnel in Ontario, especially in Toronto, which require immediate attention if the cardiovascular program is to restore its balance."

If the minister has read this report for two weeks and met with the people who made it, as she suggests she has, why is there no specific plan of action, no concrete steps that she is going

to take to deal with these problems immediately, other than more and more studies? The problems have been identified. What action is she going to take?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: In my statement to the House I outlined a six-point plan of action. I sent the member a copy of the statement, but I will pleased to say to him again that the six-point plan of action consists of the following:

Further development, evaluation and expansion of the Metropolitan Toronto cardiovascular triage and registry program; development of standardized guidelines and definitions for assessing urgent elective and emergency cases; development of a public education program on cardiac disease and treatment; reviewing of staffing requirements; improved communication within and among hospitals providing cardiac care, and establishment of the appropriate performance targets for each of the cardiac surgery centres.

This plan will be implemented by a multidisciplinary provincial working group for cardiovascular services.

We have already contacted the nine hospitals in this province providing this service, and I am pleased to tell the member that they are all very positive in their response and their desire to work with the ministry in a co-operative mode. The board chairmen, the chief executive officers, chiefs of cardiology and cardiovascular surgery and teams of medicine have agreed willingly to come forward to implement these recommendations.

FRANCHISES

Mr. Daigeler: My question is to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. Last week, I received a very disturbing letter from a Toronto-based Volkswagen-Audi dealership. Volkswagen Canada has abruptly cancelled the Audi franchise of this company with very severe consequences for the continued operation of the 75-person enterprise.

This experience, in my opinion, points out a serious problem in our current legislation. It appears that franchise business relationships can be cancelled at a moment's notice, without recourse.

May I ask the minister whether this information is correct, and if so whether he is aware of other cases where this situation has led to significant job loss?

1450

Hon. Mr. Wrye: The honourable member's information is correct. We have a situation where

some 30 Volkswagen dealerships have been affected by this termination of the Audi dealership franchise. They will retain their Volkswagen dealership franchise.

My ministry officials met with the Federation of Automobile Dealer Associations of Canada earlier this month, I believe it was on February 8. As a result of that meeting, we have asked for specific information from the federation and are waiting until that information is provided; then we expect to have meetings with Volkswagen Canada.

I can say to the honourable member that on our first reading of the franchise agreement it appears Volkswagen Canada has acted within the terms of the agreement, but certainly in terms of the job loss in the specific instance my friend refers to and generally throughout the 30 dealerships, we view the action as being most unfortunate.

Mr. Daigeler: I would like to ask whether the minister shares my interest in making, in a general way, franchise relationships more predictable. I think what is to be regretted here is the very short notice that has been given and the fact there does not seem to be any recourse. I would like to ask whether this matter is under study by the ministry.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: We have had some discussions with the federation on this issue for some period of time. I say to my friend that we have looked towards other jurisdictions, both in this country and in the United States. In most other jurisdictions, similar franchising legislation is really lacking. In the short term, we have suggested to the federation that it sit down with both domestic manufacturers and importers and try to negotiate fair and equitable agreements, without the kind of short-term cancellation notice my colleague refers to.

In the longer term, rather than looking at specific legislative action in this industry, we are looking at the whole issue of franchising, not just in the automotive industry but across the spectrum of industry. That is part of the consumer review that is now under way.

Mr. Speaker: New question, the member for Nickel Belt.

Mr. Laughren: Thank you. I have a question for the Premier (Mr. Peterson); he was not here yesterday, he left halfway through question period today and he will not be here for the next two days.

Mr. Speaker: The question is to which minister?

PROPOSED OBSERVATORY

Mr. Laughren: I will direct my question to the government House leader. If he can find his way back into the chamber and remove the growth from his seat, I have a question for him.

On January 26, I had a question for the Premier (Mr. Peterson) concerning the development of a neutrino observatory in Sudbury at the Creighton mine. On January 26, the Premier indicated that he had not been briefed about it but that he would bring himself up to speed and refer it to the Premier's Council on high technology. I am wondering if the government House leader, who is the Minister of Mines, can bring us up to date and give us a status report on the request for about \$7 million over four years, which would kick-start that very important scientific project.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I will ignore the opening salvo because I would not want to unduly excite my friends in the official opposition, lest I be accused of a personal attack in responding to that particular observation.

I can tell my friend that I have been briefed on a number of occasions, not the least of the briefings coming from some of my own constituents who have been involved in the project to which the honourable member makes reference. My colleagues the Minister of Northern Development (Mr. Fontaine) and the member for Sudbury (Mr. Campbell) have indicated interest in and support for this particular undertaking in the Sudbury area.

We are looking at the interests of both the private sector and the government of Canada. Quite frankly, we are looking at our options. We are concerned that at this point in time we do not have, as I understand it—again, I will check the information on this—but the federal people, as I remember, have not yet finally committed themselves. Certainly we are interested, but we want to know more about what is specifically intended and what the benefits are going to be in terms of the province.

We have made a commitment, as the honourable member knows, to research and development. The Premier's Council on high technology has made specific funding available in this connection. We are looking at what particular benefits would flow to the province and what the support from other levels of government and the private sector is going to be.

Mr. Laughren: I am concerned about the government's response on this matter, because it truly is an important scientific project and it is not a lot of money for the province to kick in. As

well, the technology fund has very much underspent what it was allocated this year.

When the Premier's group was in Sudbury last week, the regional chairman asked the director of research for the technology fund about the project and he said, "I really do not know anything about it." I wonder why the government—the Minister of Northern Development, the Premier or the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology—has not been in touch with the Premier's technology people to bring them up to speed on this to see if we can get this project approved, because it is not going to go anywhere unless the province intervenes and gives the start-up money to it.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Let's be clear that we have been looking at that proposal. We are interested in knowing what the benefits to the province of Ontario are going to be. We are going to analyse that. We can assure the honourable member that we are looking at the particular proposal. We are aware of his interest and the interest of the honourable member for Sudbury.

I can tell him we are carefully analysing the proposal, but we want to know, before we commit funding, what the short-term, intermediate and long-term benefits to the province are going to be. We are responsible in the way in which we manage the finances of this province and we want to make a very careful analysis before we make that commitment.

BINGO HALLS

Mr. Runciman: I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. Recently there has been a proliferation of privately operated, profit-making bingo halls in Ontario. In many areas, including my own constituency, these private operations are threatening to drive bingos run by charities out of business. In some cases, this is being achieved through questionable practices such as guaranteed nightly transfers of fixed sums of money to charities, regardless of revenues. In effect, some private bingos are temporarily operating at a loss to attract groups and drive bingos run by charities out of business. What specific plans does the minister have to address this serious problem?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I can say to the honourable member that there has been growth in the proliferation of the number of bingo halls. I am going from memory, but I think we are now in the range of some 200—it may be slightly above that—in terms of the number of halls in the province. The honourable member has indicated

that as a result of the proliferation in his area not all the halls are able to turn a proper profit.

I certainly hope and expect that any entrepreneur who is getting into the business will understand the rules we now have under the orders in council, which require 20 per cent of the profit to be turned over to the charities involved and limit the amount of the take the hall owner can take to 15 per cent.

This matter is under thorough review. When that review is complete, I expect we will announce appropriate action.

Mr. Runciman: Last week the Premier (Mr. Peterson) said he would not allow casinos into Ontario because he did not think they would lead to good lifestyles. Why is the minister permitting profit-making bingo halls to spring up all over this province when these halls dramatically increase the number of bingo games people play and have a detrimental impact on many charities?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: We are taking a look at what has been, I say quite candidly, a significant growth in the number of bingo halls. But for my friend the member for Leeds-Grenville to suggest this government is allowing them to spring up all over the province indicates to me he is unaware of the policies that have been in place for a good number of years in this province, and those policies have not changed.

There was at one point an unofficial moratorium on the number of bingo halls, but that moratorium is no longer in effect. Certainly, the order in council under which we are working does not limit in any way the number of halls, other than in terms of being private enterprises whether those halls can get a return on their investment.

The honourable member has raised the issue of how many is enough. In an effort to ensure that the charities are getting a reasonable return, and also to ensure that all charities can have an opportunity to be involved in what is a very profitable enterprise for them, we are very carefully reviewing the policies that have been in place over a number of years.

1500

VISITOR

Mr. Speaker: Just before I recognize the next questioner, I know members would want me to draw their attention to a visitor in the lower east gallery, Murray Gaunt, a former member of this House.

HEALTH SERVICES

Mr. Kanter: I have a question of the Minister of Health. I recently received a notice at my door,

as did many of my constituents, announcing the opening of Medvisit Doctors Housecall Service, a service that provides doctors for house calls but that excludes serious or life-threatening emergencies. I understand the Scott Task Force on the Use and Provision of Medical Services has expressed some concerns about the quality of care provided by such services. I am wondering if the minister could advise whether she has any plans to monitor or regulate services like this.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: This is a very important question. The Scott task force attempted to differentiate between walk-in clinics, radio-dispatched house call services and after-hours clinics that are owned and operated by community physicians, and those that are operated by corporations and employ physicians. The task force raised questions about the possible duplication of services, the continuity of care and the standards of practice, all of which are quality-of-care issues.

They suggested an evaluation be done jointly by the Ontario Medical Association and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario on the function of these services. I have already spoken to the college of physicians and surgeons and discussions are under way as to what kind of evaluation could be done.

Mr. Kanter: While this evaluation is under way, I wonder if she could clarify the fee schedule that applies to such services. As I understand it, doctors making house calls after hours are paid a premium. Does this premium apply to the nonemergency type of house call provided by services such as Medvisit?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The fact of the matter is that premiums are paid for after-hours calls that are deemed medically necessary. However, these services are advertised as services available for longer hours and only for nonemergencies. The member is quite correct: The calls are therefore made within what would be considered normal business hours of the service and do not qualify for the premium as identified by the member.

LABOUR DISPUTE

Mr. Mackenzie: I have a question for the Minister of Labour. I wonder if the Minister of Labour can tell us if he is aware of the strike that has been on now for several weeks at Orenda engines, a division of Hawker Siddeley in Mississauga, where some 320 workers have been faced with a company that has been intransigent in terms of bargaining and that is now using strikebreakers to continue the operation, includ-

ing an armoured bus with Plexiglas and shields up to bring scabs into the plant. It also sees air force personnel running the picket line at a very rapid rate of speed.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I am aware of it. I would not want to comment on any of the allegations the good member for Hamilton East has made, but I will tell him that the parties in that dispute reconvened for a third session of mediation on February 16. Unfortunately, no real progress was made, or was reported to me in any event by officials within my ministry; but obviously we are prepared to meet again and sit down with the parties just as soon as they are ready for a next round of mediation.

Mr. Mackenzie: If he has had a report from the mediators, he will know the company's position hardened in terms of the demands it has made on the workers, including having skilled tradesmen work on assembly where they have had no training at all in putting together aircraft engines.

I wonder if the minister will take a look at the violence and threat of violence that is now taking place on this particular picket line and if he will consider legislation in the province, which we have long asked for, that would outlaw strike-breakers in a legal strike situation.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The issue of violence on the picket line obviously is a serious one, but I think in all candour my friend from Hamilton East would acknowledge that where there are those sorts of allegations, it would be entirely inappropriate for the Ministry of Labour to respond, that those sorts of allegations ought to be dealt with in the appropriate venues.

Of course, when we are talking about violence that is of a criminal nature, that venue would be the criminal courts; and when we are talking about issues directly relating to the ongoing process of bargaining, whether it is a matter of bargaining in bad faith or trying to affect negotiations, the appropriate venue would of course be the Ontario Labour Relations Board.

With respect to the member's suggestion that the government consider legislation of the sort he suggested, if my memory serves me the member has a bill in Orders and Notices speaking to that subject. Obviously, those sorts of matters are undergoing an ongoing review within the Ministry of Labour. Just in order to respond to this question, I will look again at the bill my friend the member for Hamilton East has in Orders and Notices, if indeed he does have one.

MINISTRY PUBLICATION

Mr. Pollock: I have a question for the Minister of Natural Resources. He has cut back on the firefighting crews, the conservation officers are underpaid, the fish-stocking program is down and now we have this magazine, which is a good magazine put out by his ministry: Landmarks. This is going to be the last edition. Why is he cutting back on this magazine?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Finally, after all this time and a few days before we leave these wonderful chambers, the member asks a reasonable question. The fact of the matter is that his preamble has no substance whatsoever. Things were never better in the province relating to hunting and fishing. Notwithstanding 40 years of neglect by the Conservative government, we have fish stocks and game like never before, and I am proud to say it has been under the good management of this government.

To answer specifically the member's question, that particular magazine was started under the aegis of his government. It said that in a reasonable length of time it would be self-sufficient. Last year, it cost \$300,000 for the people of this province to send out this nice magazine that the Conservatives decided was appropriate but should be self-sufficient at some point in time. That did not happen. I am saving the taxpayers of this province \$300,000 out of pocket, plus whatever else the cost was.

Mr. Pollock: What is the minister going to cut out next?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: As many seats as we can over there.

Mr. Speaker: I guess that completes oral questions and responses. I cannot believe it.

PETITIONS

EXTENDED CARE

Mr. Runciman: I have a petition for the Lieutenant Governor in Council and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, signed by 75 persons in the riding represented by the member for Kingston and The Islands (Mr. Keyes), a member of the government party, which reads in part as follows:

"I believe that all residents of extended care facilities, whether it be a nursing home or a municipal home for the aged, are entitled to equal care and services according to the specific care requirements of each individual.

"Nursing home residents should benefit from the same amount of funding and kinds of services as residents of municipal homes for the aged.

"I urge the Ontario government to reform the extended care system so that it is uniform, fair and equitable with regard to funding and regulation, and so that seniors in all extended care facilities receive the quality of care that they deserve."

TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION

Mr. Tatham: I have a petition from the Ontario Teachers' Federation, District 37, signed by 747 members:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"To amend the Teachers' Superannuation Act, 1983, in order that all teachers who retired prior to May 31, 1982, have their pensions recalculated on the best five years rather than at the present seven or 10 years.

"This proposed amendment would make the five-year criteria applicable to all retired teachers and would eliminate the present inequitable treatment."

It is signed by myself.

EXTENDED CARE

Mr. Brandt: I have a petition for the Lieutenant Governor in Council and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, signed by 59 persons in the riding represented by the member for Windsor-Sandwich (Mr. Wrye), a government member, which reads in part as follows:

"I believe that all residents of extended care facilities, whether it be a nursing home or a municipal home for the aged, are entitled to equal care and services according to the specific care requirements of each individual.

"Nursing home residents should benefit from the same amount of funding and kinds of services as residents of municipal homes for the aged.

"I urge the Ontario government to reform the extended care system so that it is uniform, fair and equitable with regard to funding and regulation, and so that seniors in all extended care facilities receive the quality of care that they deserve."

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USE OF LOTTERY PROFITS

Ms. Hart: I have a petition signed by 698 members of the United Senior Citizens of Ontario Inc.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Given the continuing pressures for increased funding for hospitals, the provincial government should change the laws governing the Ontario Lottery Corp. regarding the allocation of profit so that at least 50 per cent of all provincial lottery profits be allocated to hospitals and the health care system."

EXTENDED CARE

Mr. Cousens: I have a petition for the Lieutenant Governor in Council and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, signed by 23 persons and a number of others who are from the ridings of York North and York Centre, government members' ridings, which reads in part as follows:

"I believe that all residents of extended care facilities, whether it be a nursing home or a municipal home for the aged, are entitled to equal care and services according to the specific care requirements of each individual.

"Nursing home residents should benefit from the same amount of funding and kinds of services as residents of municipal homes for the aged.

"I urge the Ontario government to reform the extended care system so that it is uniform, fair and equitable with regard to funding and regulation, and so that seniors in all extended care facilities receive the quality of care that they deserve."

Mr. Cousens: Mr. Speaker, I have another petition signed by me.

Mr. Speaker: I just have a question. Was that to the Lieutenant Governor in Council?

Mr. Cousens: Yes, it was.

I have another one that I can read that is very similar. "To the Lieutenant Governor in Council and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario."

Mr. Speaker: It is out of order.

Mr. Cousens: It is signed by 30 persons and a number of others who are from the riding of St. George-St. David, so you can see that it is properly placed, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I quite agree.

Mr. Cousens: It is also from a government member, and I have been asked to present them for him.

It reads in part as follows—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. Cousens: This is another one—

Mr. Speaker: Yes, but was that for the Lieutenant Governor in Council?

Mr. Cousens: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: I am saying it is possible that is out of order then.

Mr. Cousens: No, I would not think so, Mr. Speaker.

"I believe that all residents of extended care facilities, whether it be a nursing home or a municipal home for the aged, are entitled to equal care and services according to the specific care requirements of each individual.

"Nursing home residents should benefit from the same amount of funding and kinds of services as residents of municipal homes for the aged.

"I urge the Ontario government to reform the extended care system so that it is uniform, fair and equitable with regard to funding and regulation, and so that seniors in all extended care facilities receive the quality of care that they deserve."

OVERCROWDING IN SCHOOLS

Mr. Cousens: I have another petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Given that the present population of Brother André high school in Markham consists of 1,500 students and is at capacity; and

"That the projected enrolment for September 1990 is approximately 2,700, with the majority of increased enrolment at the grades 9 and 10 level; and

"That the potential overcrowding will have serious repercussions for students and teachers alike;

"The Ministry of Education, in consultation with the York Region Roman Catholic Separate School Board, move immediately to approve a new high school for occupancy in September 1991 in Milliken Mills that will include initially grades 9 and 10 and therefore alleviate potential intolerable conditions at Brother André high school."

This petition is signed by approximately 65 residents of Markham, Unionville and Thornhill.

YORK REGION LAND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Cousens: I have another petition:

"To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the dramatic growth rate in York region has placed extreme pressure on the municipal planning process, and given that

serious allegations have been made regarding the integrity of this process in York region, we strongly urge the provincial government to conduct a full and open public inquiry into the municipal planning process and land development practices of York region."

It is duly signed by myself.

TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION

Mr. Cousens: I have another petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"To amend the Teachers' Superannuation Act, 1983, in order that all teachers who retired prior to May 31, 1982, have their pensions recalculated on the best five years rather than at the present seven or 10 years.

"This proposed amendment would make the five-year criteria applicable to all retired teachers and would eliminate the present inequitable treatment."

This is duly signed by myself and constituents, but also approximately 23 residents from other neighbouring ridings.

Miss Roberts: I have a petition as well, very similar to the one that my honourable friend opposite just read.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"To amend the Teachers' Superannuation Act, 1983, in order that all teachers who retired prior to May 31, 1982, have their pensions recalculated on the best five years rather than at the present seven or 10 years.

"This proposed amendment would make the five-year criteria applicable to all retired teachers and would eliminate the present inequitable treatment."

It is in proper form and signed by myself, as required.

EXTENDED CARE

Mr. Harris: I have a petition for the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario signed by 47 persons from my riding, which reads in part as follows:

"I believe that all residents of extended care facilities, whether it be a nursing home or a municipal home for the aged, are entitled to equal care and services according to the specific care requirements of each individual.

"Nursing home residents should benefit from the same amount of funding and kinds of services as residents of municipal homes for the aged.

"I urge the Ontario government to reform the extended care system so that it is uniform, fair and equitable with regard to funding and regulation, and so that seniors in all extended care facilities receive the quality of care that they deserve."

It is signed, as I said, by 47 persons from Nipissing and myself.

I have one other. This one comes from the city of Sudbury, the extended care nursing home, and it contains 152 signatures. I believe that is in the riding of the member for Sudbury (Mr. Campbell).

I have a petition for the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario signed by 152 persons in the riding represented by the member for Sudbury, a government member, which reads in part as follows:

"I believe that all residents of extended care facilities, whether it be a nursing home or a municipal home for the aged, are entitled to equal care and services according to the specific care requirements of each individual.

"Nursing home residents should benefit from the same amount of funding and kinds of services as residents of municipal homes for the aged.

"I urge the Ontario government to reform the extended care system so that it is uniform, fair and equitable with regard to funding and regulation, and so that seniors in all extended care facilities receive the quality of care that they deserve."

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Mr. Mackenzie: I have a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the Liberal members of the standing committee on resources development have voted to oppose an opposition motion to hear all deputations who want to appear before the committee on Bill 162,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly to instruct the standing committee on resources development to reschedule its public hearings on Bill 162 in order to give all deputations who wish to make presentations about the proposed changes to the workers' compensation system an opportunity to appear before the committee and express their views."

That is signed by 92 residents of Ontario and I have affixed my signature to it.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry—oh, the member for Hamilton East has another one.

Mr. Mackenzie: I have a petition here to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the Liberal members of the standing committee on resources development have voted to oppose an opposition motion to hear all deputations who want to appear before the committee on Bill 162,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly to instruct the standing committee on resources development to reschedule its public hearings on Bill 162 in order to give all deputations who wish to make presentations about the proposed changes to the workers' compensation system an opportunity to appear before the committee and express their views."

That is signed by 10 citizens of Ontario and I have affixed my name to it as well.

I have a further petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the Liberal members of the standing committee on resources development have voted to oppose an opposition motion to hear all deputations who want to appear before the committee on Bill 162,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly to instruct the standing committee on resources development to reschedule its public hearings on Bill 162 in order to give all deputations who wish to make presentations about the proposed changes to the workers' compensation system an opportunity to appear before the committee and express their views."

This is signed by 30 residents from places as diverse as Sault Ste. Marie and Cambridge, Ontario. I sign my name to the petition.

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EXTENDED CARE

Mr. Villeneuve: I have two similar petitions. In the interest of time, I will read only one. However, they are both addressed in a similar fashion. I have a petition for the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario signed by 45 persons in the riding represented by the member for Cornwall (Mr. Cleary), a government member, and a similar petition from 15 persons in the riding I represent, Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry. They are identical, so I will read only one.

"I believe that all residents of extended care facilities, whether it be a nursing home or a

municipal home for the aged, are entitled to equal care and services, according to the specific care requirements of each individual.

"Nursing home residents should benefit from the same amount of funding and kinds of services as residents of municipal homes for the aged.

"I urge the Ontario government to reform the extended care system so that it is uniform, fair, and equitable with regard to funding and regulation, and so that seniors in all extended care facilities receive the quality of care that they deserve."

I have signed both petitions and I respectfully submit them.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I have a petition for the Lieutenant Governor in Council and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, signed by 27 persons from Palmerston and area, which reads as follows:

"I believe that all residents of extended care facilities, whether it be a nursing home or a municipal home for the aged, are entitled to equal care and services, according to the specific care requirements of each individual.

"Nursing home residents should benefit from the same amount of funding and kinds of services as residents of municipal homes for the aged.

"I urge the Ontario government to reform the extended care system so that it is uniform, fair and equitable with regard to funding and regulation, and so that seniors in all extended care facilities receive the quality of care that they deserve."

I support this petition and have signed my name to it. I also have a petition from Waterloo expressing the same concerns and I have also endorsed that petition.

Mr. Pollock: I have a petition for the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, signed by 33 persons in a riding represented by a government member, the member for Victoria-Haliburton (Mr. Eakins), which reads as follows:

"I believe that all residents of extended care facilities, whether it be a nursing home or a municipal home for the aged, are entitled to equal care and services, according to the specific care requirements of each individual.

"Nursing home residents should benefit from the same amount of funding and kinds of services as residents of municipal homes for the aged.

"I urge the Ontario government to reform the extended care system so that it is uniform, fair, and equitable with regard to funding and regulation, and so that seniors in all extended

care facilities receive the quality of care that they deserve."

I have signed this myself. I have another petition which reads the same. It is signed by people from the Peterborough area.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Mr. Allen: I have two petitions to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, totalling 20 names in all, from the Kitchener-Guelph region, which read as follows:

"Whereas the Liberal members of the standing committee on resources development have voted to oppose an opposition motion to hear all deputations who want to appear before the committee on Bill 162,

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly to instruct the standing committee on resources development to reschedule its public hearings on Bill 162 in order to give all deputations who wish to make presentations about the proposed changes to the workers' compensation system an opportunity to appear before the committee and express their views."

I have affixed my signature to these petitions and I certainly agree with the contents.

EXTENDED CARE

Mrs. Marland: I have a petition for the Lieutenant Governor in Council and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, signed by 105 persons from my riding, which reads in part as follows:

"I believe that all residents of extended care facilities, whether it be a nursing home or a municipal home for the aged, are entitled to equal care and services, according to the specific care requirements of each individual.

"Nursing home residents should benefit from the same amount of funding and kinds of services as residents of municipal homes for the aged.

"I urge the Ontario government to reform the extended care system so that it is uniform, fair and equitable with regard to funding and regulation, and so that seniors in all extended care facilities receive the quality of care that they deserve."

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

TOBACCO SALE REGULATION ACT

Mr. Allen moved first reading of Bill 221, An Act to regulate the Sale of Tobacco.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Allen: This bill responds to the salient fact that tobacco is the leading preventable cause of disease and death in Canada. Because there is

little onset of smoking among adults, it is important to have legislation that postpones effectively that decision among minors until they are, in fact, adults.

Surveys tell us that at present approximately 90 per cent of retailers do sell tobacco to minors, even though such sales are illegal.

Mr. Speaker: And what does the bill say?

Mr. Allen: What the bill says is that it would increase the maximum fine. First of all, it would repeal the Minors' Protection Act. It would increase the maximum fine for selling tobacco to persons under 18 from \$50 to \$5,000, the current maximum being \$50 in the Minors' Protection Act.

The bill differs from the bill introduced by the member for Carleton (Mr. Sterling) in that it would require tobacco retailers to obtain a tobacco sales licence in order to sell the product. Further, regulations under the bill would be able to provide that all vending machines be located in areas inaccessible to minors.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

ONTARIO LOTTERY CORPORATION AMENDMENT ACT

Ms. Hart moved, on behalf of Hon. R. F. Nixon, second reading of Bill 119, An Act to amend the Ontario Lottery Corporation Act.

Ms. Hart: Members will know that Bill 119 is the result of an announcement made by the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) in the 1986-87 budget that the government intended to change the emphasis in allocation of Ontario Lottery Corp. funds, expanding them to include hospital services and, at that time, general expenditures. This was done to reflect the priority that this government puts on health care. At the same time, the Treasurer indicated that he and the government were totally committed to continuing and improving their financial support for culture and recreation.

That support continues to be true today and the proof is in the pudding. Since this government came into office, its spending on recreation and culture has increased substantially every year. I would also point out that the ministries responsible to those client groups have not been limited to lottery moneys.

The Ministry of Culture and Communications, for example, got 85 per cent of its funding on the culture side from nonlottery sources in the last two years. Special funding has been announced this year: the Ballet Opera House, \$65 million, plus the land; and film incentives, \$34.3 million

over two years. The Ministry of Tourism and Recreation has received \$2.8 million a year for sports safety initiatives and \$3.2 million for older adult initiatives. Those are all nonlottery moneys.

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It must also be said that changing demographics and opportunities resulting from new technology are all placing increasing pressure on the health care system. It is interesting to note that we spend \$40 million a day on health care and \$5.5 billion for hospitals in this year's budget alone. All of us want the best-quality health care and access to that care. If we compare the \$360-million notional surplus from the provincial lotteries to the daily cost of operating our hospitals, it would be swallowed up very quickly. We think we are doing the right thing by putting any unallocated lottery money in that direction.

Having said that, I would point out that a significant change in Bill 119 from its predecessor, Bill 38, which died on Orders and Notices, is that Bill 119 makes it very clear that fitness, sport, recreation, cultural activities and the Trillium Foundation have first call on any provincial lottery profits in the fiscal year. This is significant because it preserves and confirms the primacy of those activities. They get their allocations first. Only what is left over goes to the operation of hospitals.

Since 1986, when this proposal was first aired, the Treasurer and all the affected ministries have had many opportunities to discuss it with those most affected by it. One of the questions that comes up again and again is, "Why don't you guarantee a level of funding?" Our response to that, as it would be from any government, is: "We don't guarantee any other programs, for example, funding for education, municipalities, the justice system. It would be inappropriate to do so." Parliamentary practice is for the Legislature to approve the funding levels for each and every program through the annual estimates debates. I suppose it might be said also that there are no guarantees that people will continue to buy lottery tickets.

In conclusion, I would say that Bill 119 confirms and reaffirms this government's and the Treasurer's commitment to culture and recreation. It gives them first call on any lottery moneys raised in the fiscal year. At the same time, it reflects the realities of today, that health care is a spending priority of this government, as it should be, given the increased pressure on it, by dedicating any unallocated dollars to the

operation of hospitals. Somebody has to pay for health care, and most people would agree that it is this government's responsibility to ensure that that occurs.

I look forward to participating with the other members in the debate.

Mr. Laughren: Just a question to the parliamentary assistant, whom I welcome to the debate this afternoon. I am pleased to see her carrying this bill on behalf of the Treasurer. I was hoping she would tell us about the surplus, which I notice she referred to as a notional surplus. I could almost see the capitalized letters for "notional." Before the debate begins, I would be interested in knowing just what the surplus is in the fund.

Mrs. Marland: I wondered if the parliamentary assistant could elaborate in her response. When she says that all of us want quality health care and then goes on to say that there is no guarantee that people will continue to buy lottery tickets, how does her government plan to ensure that we will have quality health care if it is at the whim of people buying lottery tickets? Is that how we are going to budget quality health care in the future of this province?

I would respectfully suggest that, if it is, we certainly have far more to worry about in the future of health care than we already know we have to worry about and the concerns that have been addressed by my colleague the member for Parry Sound (Mr. Eves), the Health critic for the Progressive Conservatives, who has intensively, for at least the last three months, been asking the Health minister very serious questions about where the solutions are going to come from for the funding of health care programs today in this province and the fact that we have so many areas of underfunding.

I hope that the parliamentary assistant is not suggesting in her speech that everything is going to pivot on people faced with buying enough lottery tickets in order to be secure in the knowledge that the hospitals will be there, the nurses will be there, the qualifications and the trained people will be high enough to do the work that needs to be done in serving the public in terms of giving health service, or that capital equipment and capital building—I mean, how much of this is going to now be funded from the lotteries? It would be interesting to have that answer.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I want to thank my colleague the member for York East (Ms. Hart) for her very excellent and quite brief distillation of the essence of this very important legislation,

which I want to say that I very strongly support, because we as a government, as the honourable member has said so eloquently, have established a very good level of support for culture and recreation across the province.

My friend the member for Lanark-Renfrew (Mr. Wiseman) and other members of this assembly know only too well of the very substantial work that has been done by my friends, first the member for Victoria-Haliburton (Mr. Eakins) when he was the minister and now the member for Quinte (Mr. O'Neill). They have travelled the province doing good works in the area of culture and recreation.

But I tell you, Mr. Speaker, when I go back to my constituency in the great east of this province, people say to me: "We understand the government's commitment to health care. We understand that there can be no greater priority for any government in our society today than to maintain a good and strong level of support for the operations of our public hospitals and all of those other matters that are part of a quality health care commitment."

I repeat that I am personally very strongly committed to Bill 119, because while I think we have to maintain a very strong commitment to culture and recreation, as our friend the member for York East said, we also have to make plain that the commitment this government has to hospitals and health care is a very, very top priority.

I cannot wait to hear my friends in the opposition stand, when they have the opportunity to speak to the second reading in full debate, to hear where they stand on this matter. We have heard a great deal of criticism from the opposition about inadequate funding for hospitals.

This legislation, so ably advanced by my friend from York East, puts the government position plainly before the assembly. It is a position strongly supported, I believe, by the people of Ontario and certainly the people of Renfrew North. I am very anxious to hear the support from our friends opposite.

The Deputy Speaker: Do other members have questions or comments or would like to distil essence? If not, would the parliamentary assistant wish to reply?

Ms. Hart: Yes. My friend the member for Mississauga South (Mrs. Marland) asks about lotteries being the primary source of health care funding, our hospital funding. Clearly, given the numbers, \$5.5 billion for hospitals this year, \$40 million a day for the health care system, even if we used the entire lottery revenues, which are

projected to be \$455 million for 1988-89, it would be ludicrous to suggest that that would be the primary funding source for health care.

It is clear from the language of Bill 119 that the primary objective is to fund cultural and recreational activities. They have first call on the money, along with the Trillium Foundation. Then, if there are moneys left over, this government has chosen to channel those funds to the operation of hospitals, and very properly so, given this government's stated priority for health care.

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My friend the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) asked me about the notional surplus. The current numbers are \$369 million from the Ontario games and \$932 million from the interprovincial games. As my friend opposite knows, those notional surpluses have been built up over a number of years since the early 1970s when these games were initiated.

Never, even in the first year of lottery revenues coming in, were they fully or even half allocated to the objects set out in the Ontario Lottery Corporation Act. It was never anticipated that the revenues would be so high and it would not be fiscally responsible, given the pressures on the health care system, to dedicate those—

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you. The member's time is up. The member for Nickel Belt.

Mr. Laughren: I do indeed want to engage in a debate on Bill 119, An Act to amend the Ontario Lottery Corporation Act. The parliamentary assistant, in her opening remarks, certainly did not get to the heart of the issue and the debate that has swirled around this bill. She made it sound as though it was beyond her comprehension how anyone could not support Bill 119.

Of course, the government House leader, the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway), in his remarks expressed great interest in watching the opposition somehow try to justify any opposition they might have to the bill. I have no hesitation whatsoever in saying that I am opposed to Bill 119, An Act to amend the Ontario Lottery Corporation Act, because I think it is a bad bill.

What the government members have not said—they referred to it rather obliquely—is why the previous incarnation of this bill, Bill 38 as I recall its number, was dropped. It was dropped in a minority parliament because there was massive opposition to the bill all across Ontario. The two opposition parties combined had a majority in this assembly, and they were simply going to vote against it. We could not have had this

legislation in a minority parliament. The government had to have a majority in order to bring this bill in.

Mr. McGuigan: Tyranny of the minority.

Mr. Laughren: The member for Essex-Kent is living in a time warp. It is the tyranny of the majority that we are dealing with here. Later on in my remarks I will lay before the member some of the groups and the municipalities—I am trying to remember. I think his area is opposed to this bill, so perhaps he is concerned about their tyranny as well.

The debate around Bill 119 is a debate of some substance. It concerns the whole question of whether or not funds from lotteries are just another source of government revenue to be parcelled out by the Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Mr. Elston) and the Treasurer in consultation with the ministers. Are lottery funds simply another source of revenue? I think that is a fair question. There are those of us who do not believe that.

As a matter of fact, I do not think that the parliamentary assistant and the Treasurer believe that it is simply another source of money or it would not be designated in the funds in this bill, because this bill designates the funds from lottery profits to culture, recreation, sports, fitness, the Trillium Foundation, which gives out money to charities, and to the operation of hospitals. So the government does not see this as simply another source of revenue.

Just by the nature of the beast, the government has said, or admitted if you will, that this is not an ordinary source of money. It is not like a tax on alcohol or on cigarettes which flows into the consolidated revenue fund. Whether people approve of smoking or drinking is not the point. The point is that it is money that comes into the consolidated revenue fund, and the government in its wisdom parcels it out. That is the way the system is. But something is different about lottery funds or the government would not be designating these profits. So the government acknowledges the fact that lottery funds are different from ordinary tax revenues.

Once we have disposed of that question of whether lottery funds are an ordinary source of tax revenue or whether they are different, then we can get on with the question of what we actually do and how we actually designate the funds. Most of us know that lottery funds tend to be highly volatile as a source of revenue, and I do not think that we need to use the example of Ontario; there are other jurisdictions.

I believe my colleague the member for Cambridge (Mr. Farnan), who has an abiding interest in this legislation and will be in later to speak, will lay before the members some examples of how volatile lottery funds can be. That perhaps is one reason why people feel that they should not be spent on essential services, such as health or education.

Since 1975, when the original Ontario Lottery Corporation Act was passed, the funds have gone into sports and recreation and, of course, fitness. There was no question at all, and it was built right into the bill that the use of the funds was to be restricted.

I was reading through some of the debates from 1975, and one of the quotes was the following:

"...I do believe that it is bad practice to earmark any revenues....in a system of responsible government, where the ministry spends the money from the consolidated revenue fund as it sees fit, and then stands the public test, as from time to time they are required to do."

There is a member who does not believe that funds should be earmarked, either to hospitals, to sports, to fitness or to recreation. That is just one member, but that member, who said that in 1975, is today the Treasurer.

There were other quotes—just a couple. I will not read them all. One member said:

"...lotteries, of course, are no substitute for taxes....because I don't believe it's an equitable way to extract funds from people. And I hope that lotteries, if sponsored by the government, would not be interrelated with the actual tax base."

That was the member for Perth (Mr. Edighoffer), the present Speaker of the House.

There was, I believe, one other quote:

"The principle of lotteries...rests quite easily with me, as long as the funds are being used for the delivery of marginal services and not essential services in the province. That's the responsibility of taxation."

I was surprised, when I read that, to realize that I had said that, back in 1975. The government has not convinced me that I should see the error of my ways, because that really is—

Mr. McGuigan: We still have hope.

Mr. Laughren: They still have hope. I am glad the member for Essex-Kent does.

In 1975, when the Ontario Lottery Corp. was formed as a result of the act, we had only three lotteries: Wintario in 1975, Lottario in 1978 and the Instant cash lottery in 1984.

Under section 9 of that act, the funds were very precisely allocated. Section 9 of that 1975 act said the following—it is very brief:

"The net profits of the corporation after provision for prizes and the payment of expenses of operations shall be paid into the consolidated revenue fund at such times and in such manner as the Lieutenant Governor in Council may direct, to be available for the promotion and development of physical fitness, sports, recreational and cultural activities and facilities therefor."

I would like to make an important point right now, and then come back to it later. That was a major part of the Ontario Lottery Corporation Act in 1975, and it stated very specifically what the whole proceeds of the corporation would be for. As a matter of fact, I would appreciate very much if the Speaker would seriously consider the propriety of this act, considering that, in my view, it is contrary to the principle of the act back to 1975.

If a private member were to move an amendment to an existing piece of legislation that was contrary to the principle of the legislation, that member would be ruled out of order by the Speaker. In my view, this particular amendment should be ruled out of order because it is contrary to the principle of that bill back in 1975.

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What we really need is an entirely new bill, an entirely new piece of legislation for Ontario, because what the government is doing now is contrary to the principle of the very act it is trying to amend. It seems to me that is very strange.

In those days, in 1975, the Ministry of Culture and Recreation got all the money and parcelled it out. Now it is split among three ministries, as I understand it: the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, the Ministry of Culture and Communications and the Ministry of Citizenship. That is how the funds are divvied up now, by those three ministries.

In 1976, an important event occurred, and that was the development of the interprovincial lotteries in which the Canadian government got involved and we had lotteries all across Canada. There was Super Loto, Lotto 6/49 and the Provincial. Then an arrangement was made whereby the federal government got out of lotteries and the provinces paid it so much money every year—I believe they still do—and in return the federal government stays out of the lottery business and the provincial governments have the field.

The reason that is important is that at that time the government of the day—it was not this government, of course—said that those three interprovincial lotteries, Super Loto, Lotto 6/49 and the Provincial, do not fall under section 9 of

the act to which I referred a few minutes ago, which restricted the use of the funds. The interpretation of the government was that because these are not part of the Ontario Lottery Corp. profits, any profits from those extraprovincial lotteries are not restricted by section 9, which said it had to be spent on culture, sports, fitness and recreation.

That is an important distinction to make, because as events unfolded and years went by, that was found to be a judgement in error. I do not think anyone intended to play any game with it, but I think it was determined that it was not the proper thing to have done. Nevertheless, the government did it and it disbursed the funds from those lotteries as it saw fit, through a trust that was set up for the disposal of those funds. A lot of it was put into health and health research-related activities and funding for the Trillium Foundation.

Then there was an order in council in 1986 which did away with the trust and put the money directly into the consolidated revenue fund. There has been a history of changes in the way in which governments handled lottery money. Over the years, a lot of money from lotteries in Ontario has not gone into culture and recreation. A lot of it, because it was not from the provincial funds but from the extraprovincial funds, did not get spent on culture and recreation anyway. So a lot of money in the lotteries has never been spent on that.

Now I believe, and I stand to be corrected, about two thirds of the profits of the lottery tickets sold in Ontario come from the extraprovincial—the Super Loto, Lotto 6/49 and the Provincial—which means that the bulk of lottery revenues now in the province does not even come from Wintario and so forth. Also, there has been a change in the way in which people buy lottery tickets.

Then in 1987 the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) told the Treasurer that the money that came from the extraprovincial lotteries should have been included under section 9 of the previous act—the act that we still live under today—and that those extraprovincial funds really should have been restricted, just the way they were from Wintario and from the Ontario Lottery Corp.

So the Attorney General said to the Treasurer, “You know, you’ve been doing this the wrong way, not intentionally, of course, but you’ve been doing it the wrong way and the same restrictions that applied under the Ontario Lottery Corporation Act of 1975 should have applied

to those extraprovincial or interprovincial lottery gains.”

At that point, this government had to stop dead in its tracks and say: “Hold the phone. We can’t continue to put this money out there and treat it as though it wasn’t part of the whole restrictions under section 9 of the Ontario Lottery Corporation Act.” That is the reason, of course, we have this bill: to legitimize what has been going on for so long.

We are talking about big money. The parliamentary assistant talked about money totalling megabucks, and she is quite right. I have a letter from the Treasurer dated December 7, 1988. I was trying to determine from the Treasurer how much money we are talking about, because once the Attorney General made his ruling, then the government could no longer continue to spend the money; it had to set it aside or spend it all on culture and recreation. This is what the Treasurer said:

“You also ask for the unspent balance from both Ontario and interprovincial lotteries. As at March 31, 1988, the cumulative unspent balance was \$369 million for the Ontario games and \$932 million for the interprovincial games. Under Bill 119, proceeds from both Ontario and the interprovincial games would be used for those purposes specified in the bill.”

We are talking about a huge amount of money in terms of culture and recreation. In terms of the hospital budgets of the province, perhaps it does not seem to be as much, but I will want to know from the parliamentary assistant, who presumably will speak at the end of the debate, just what her intentions are and whether or not they are honourable concerning the—

Interjection.

Mr. Laughren: Yes, the parliamentary assistant thinks it is a switch for me to be demanding honourable intentions from her.

Anyway, I want to determine just what the intentions of the government are concerning those moneys in excess of \$1 billion. I do not think the parliamentary assistant is going to tell me that the money is not there any more. She has the laws that must be obeyed, and the Attorney General’s ruling must be obeyed that that money could not be spent on purposes other than those restricted by section 9 of the 1975 Ontario Lottery Corporation Act.

To get to the bill before us today, I think it is terribly important that we read the words very carefully in this bill, because I can tell members that the groups out there in Ontario—the municipalities and all the cultural and recreational and

sports groups out there—have read it very carefully, I suspect in some cases more carefully than members of this assembly.

This is what the bill says:

"The net profits of the corporation"—after expenses and so forth—"may direct, to be available for appropriation by the Legislature,

"(a) for the promotion and development of physical fitness, sports, recreational and cultural activities and facilities therefor; and

"(b) for the activities of the Ontario Trillium Foundation."

I really want to put some emphasis on that, because what the bill is saying is that the profits from the lottery funds "may direct, to be available for appropriation by the Legislature." It does not say it must, it says "may."

Interjection.

Mr. Laughren: That is not true. Just wait a minute and I will show you where the word "shall" comes in.

Interjection.

Mr. Laughren: Don't be ridiculous.

The Deputy Speaker: The member will address his remarks through the Speaker, of course.

Mr. Laughren: I am trying, Mr. Speaker, but perhaps the heckling could be directed through you too.

The Deputy Speaker: The heckling can actually stop. Only one member at a time can speak.

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Mr. Laughren: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I am going to be repetitive in this regard, because I think it is terribly important.

"The net profits of the corporation after provision for prizes and the payment of expenses of operations shall be paid into the consolidated revenue fund"—there is the word "shall;" it must all go in there—"at such times and in such manner as the Lieutenant Governor in Council," which means the cabinet, "may direct to be available for appropriation by the Legislature.

It all has to go in there. But it may be available for appropriation by the Legislature for the promotion of physical fitness, culture and so forth as well as "for the activities of the Ontario Trillium Foundation," which provides funds for charities across the province, "and the net profits of the corporation paid into the consolidated revenue fund in a fiscal year of Ontario and not so appropriated in the fiscal year shall be applied to, and accounted for in the public accounts of Ontario as part of, the money appropriated by the

Legislature in the fiscal year for the operation of hospitals."

Let me re-emphasize that. What this bill is saying and what this government wants to do is take all the profits of the lotteries and pay them into the consolidated revenue fund, which is that whole pool of money that comes just like every other tax in the province comes and is paid into the consolidated revenue fund. Once it is in there, the cabinet "in such manner...may direct to be available for appropriation by the Legislature."

We know it has to go into the consolidated revenue fund. Then it may be directed to culture and recreation, but what is not directed for culture and recreation shall go for the operation of hospitals.

You do not have to have a paranoid mentality to see what is possible with this bill.

Mr. Faubert: It helps.

Mr. Laughren: The member for Scarborough-Ellesmere says it helps to be paranoid. Even paranoids have enemies.

What this bill is clearly doing is saying all the money goes into the consolidated revenue fund. Some of it may be directed to culture and recreation, but the balance shall go to hospitals. That is what it is saying.

Mr. D. R. Cooke: Does that include mental hospitals?

Mr. Laughren: All hospitals. What has that got to do with it, what kind of hospital? All hospitals.

Mr. D. R. Cooke: You're talking about paranoia.

Mr. Laughren: Oh, I see.

The bill says that money must go to hospitals, but it does not say that any money must go to culture and recreation, sports and fitness and so forth. That is what it says.

If government members wonder why the groups across Ontario, a lot of them volunteer organizations, are so upset about this bill, that is why. Members should not take my word for it. They can see my comments as the rantings of a partisan opposition member if they like. That does not bother me. But they should listen to those nonpartisan, volunteer groups across Ontario that are telling them the same thing. That is the problem. I assume that this bill will be going out to committee for hearings, and when that happens, they are going to hear, in much starker terms than I am giving, the reasons those groups are so worried about this bill.

The other thing the bill will do is it says that as of April 1, 1988, almost a year ago, all of the surplus must go to the operation of hospitals. That includes the surplus from the interprovincial games and the Ontario games. I think the parliamentary assistant said the total was \$369 million from the Ontario games and \$932 million from the interprovincial games. I do not think she said \$932 million is the total, but I do not want to misquote her on that.

Ms. Hart: No, you're right.

Mr. Laughren: It is in excess of \$1 billion. All of that money, all of that accumulated surplus—and I can give figures that show it is higher than that today, because that is as of April 1, 1988. It is higher than that today; it is about \$1.6 billion today, if my arithmetic is correct. All of that money must go to the operation of hospitals, not to culture and recreation, for which it was originally intended.

Members can say, "Well, are you against money for hospitals and health care in the province of Ontario?" I have not heard any member say that. I think most members know better than to suggest that because someone is opposed to this bill, he is therefore opposed to a decent health care system in the province or more money for the health care system in general. I do not think any members would accuse us of that.

What needs to be very clear to members of the government is just how strongly groups out there in Ontario feel about this bill. One of our main objections is that there is no minimum guarantee whatsoever for culture and recreation. The parliamentary assistant said that some people have objections because there is no minimum guarantee for culture and recreation and that we never do that. I would point out to the parliamentary assistant that they never designate funds either.

But there is something different about lottery funds. They already admit to that by designating them. They should not use the argument that we cannot provide any guarantees because we never do that; because I would say back to them, "Does that mean they cannot designate funds, because they never do it?"

Lottery funds are a different source of money. The government and the parliamentary assistant should understand that they cannot have it both ways in this debate. If they have established the fact that lottery funds are different and that is why they designate them, then there is no reason why they cannot, as well, establish minimums for those organizations and groups that have come to

depend on lottery profits to fund their organizations.

I found it particularly offensive—as a matter of fact, the government House leader implied it, I think, perhaps because his remarks were not prepared; perhaps that is the reason this was a big boost for health care funds. The last time I checked, recreation, fitness and sports were all part of the health care system. I think that preventive health care, which is one of those things that this government seems to have forgotten all about, needs to be properly supported. And what better way to do it than through these lottery funds?

Sports, culture, recreational sports, physical fitness are all part of the global health care picture in the province. Yet this government is pretending that if you do not spend it on hospitals, it is not part of the health care system. What an institutionalized straitjacket they have got themselves in vis-à-vis health care. Health care does not begin and end in hospitals. Sickness may, perhaps, but not health care. I think that is where they are wrong again. We are talking about a global picture of health care.

I wanted to go over a couple of the numbers. If I am incorrect in these, I hope the parliamentary assistant will correct me, because I am sure she has access to the books better than I have. I think these are the funds.

The surplus from the provincial funds to March 31, 1988, was \$369 million. That was almost a year ago. The surplus in the provincial funds for 1989 was about \$54 million; that is an estimate. The surplus from the interprovincial funds as of March 31, 1988, was \$932 million. I think that is correct because it is the number that the parliamentary assistant used.

I think the estimated surplus from those interprovincial games for this year, 1988-89—to March 31, 1989—is going to be almost \$300 million. It works out to about \$299 million. If we add up all the accumulated surpluses, it comes to a \$1,654,000,000 surplus in lottery funds. If I am out a bit, I will accept the correction from the parliamentary assistant, give or take several million, probably.

What is bothering me is that there is this huge surplus built up in terms of lotteries and lottery profits, and we have this government saying, despite the fact that this money was collected with one thing in mind—sports, culture, recreation; and according to the Attorney General, that was the correct interpretation for all the money—that retroactively, we are now going to stand that on its head and say that we will decide

to funnel off as much as we please to hospitals rather than adequately funding the culture and recreation groups out there in the province of Ontario. I think that is wrong in principle. It is acceptable under the law, but I do not think that it is morally acceptable.

1610

We know that while this surplus has been building up, it is not because suddenly lottery profits took a surge. As a matter of fact, lottery profits are down this year; they were down last year and they are down again this year. I think that they were around \$500 million and dropped to \$470 million. The latest number I saw was that they are going to be down around \$455 million for this year, so lottery profits are not rising.

Historically, we know that lottery games tend to have a relatively short life. They will go longer, but they are really successful for about five years for each game; then new games need to be introduced and that is exactly what the Ontario Lottery Corp. has been doing.

We have all this money built up in the pool and it was all collected for one reason. Now, retroactively, it is going to be spent for these different purposes.

The surplus that gets built up each year has been rising in the province. Whether the sales of lotteries are rising or profits are rising, the accumulated surplus every year is rising. When I look back 10 years ago, in 1978 the accumulated surplus at the end of the year was \$85 million. In 1988 the accumulated surplus was \$369 million. That is the number the parliamentary assistant used herself.

There has been a real increase in the unspent provincial funds and during that period of time, the growth of expenditures has decreased while the accumulated surplus has increased somewhat dramatically as well.

From 1986 to 1988 in the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation only 47 per cent of the capital grant applications were funded; and of the total amount of money applied for, only 44 per cent was granted. In 1988, in Tourism and Recreation—we are talking now about capital grants—only \$28 million in capital grants was approved, which was 43 per cent of the amount applied for.

It is not as though the government is accumulating surplus because there is not a purpose for the money. What is really happening is that the government has decided to turn down or reject all sorts of applications for funds, because it does not have a proper health care funding plan in Ontario. The government has decided that it is

going to scratch, claw and steal from the Ontario Lottery Corp.'s accumulated profits every nickel and dime it can get, to put into the health care sector—without proper taxing—what is available to it in the province, for properly funding the health care system.

When we have reached the point in Ontario where the government requires games of chance to fund an essential service like health care, it is some kind of comment on its game plan for the delivery of health care in Ontario. The government is really bankrupt in that regard.

There is a great deal of suspicion in Ontario about funding for health care. The government should understand that.

The standing committee on government agencies—which is an all-party committee—from its report on agencies, boards and commissions, dated 1987, had this to say about the previous bill, which dealt with lottery funding as well: "Lottery proceeds are not a guaranteed source of revenue for the government. The moneys thus generated are therefore dedicated to projects not normally eligible for government funding."

That was the way the three-party standing committee felt in 1986, which of course included members from the Liberal caucus; that is what they said back in 1986. It said that if the government is going to use lottery funds—fine. Nobody is trying to pretend that there is something evil about lottery funds, but simply that it is a different kind of revenue and should be treated differently.

Once again, from the 1987 report on lotteries:

"The committee expressed its concerns that the proposed amendment could lead to a reduction in the amount of money now provided for physical fitness, sports, recreational and cultural facilities. The committee believes that the removal of the clause dedicating lottery profits to certain kinds of projects may lead to increased competition for these funds and that the groups which previously received lottery monies will now be given a lower priority."

Amen. That is how they felt in 1987; that is what we feel today; that is what those volunteer groups and agencies all across the province feel today.

Guess whom they will be competing against. Will they be competing against other culture and recreation groups? No; they will be competing against the hospitals in Ontario. So the government has set up some kind of silly David-and-Goliath scenario where the volunteer agencies and groups out there are going to have to be saying, "Do not give that money to the hospitals;

we want it." That is some kind of leadership in the whole field of culture, recreation, sports and fitness. It is not an appropriate stance for the government.

I could quote for a long time from that report.

So members know who is opposed to this bill, perhaps I should give them a few examples of who thinks this bill is wrong. It is not just this political party that believes this bill is wrong. The following people think this bill is wrong:

The Canadian Actors' Equity Association, the Canadian Periodical Publishers' Association, the Estonian Arts Centre, the National Multicultural Theatre Association, the Ontario Arenas Association Inc., the Ontario Association of Art Galleries, the Older Adult Centres' Association of Ontario, the Ontario Crafts Council, the Ontario Library Association, the Ontario Museum Association, the Ontario Municipal Recreation Association, the Ontario Research Council on Leisure, the Parks and Recreation Federation of Ontario, the Society of Directors of Municipal Recreation of Ontario, and Sport Ontario.

It goes on and on. I will not go through the whole list. Just to give one quote from the alliance—there is an alliance formed out there to fight Bill 119, an alliance of these groups—"Section 1 of the bill does not guarantee any level of allocation to culture, recreation, sports and fitness nor does it define an equitable process by which the lottery funds will be distributed, except to say that the Lieutenant Governor in Council, i.e. the cabinet, will make the final decision with regard to the distribution of lottery funds." That is what it says.

It goes on to say: "Lotteries have been generating more revenue than the government has been allocating. The alliance believes that many outstanding needs exist in the areas. The provincial government is artificially creating unspent funds by continuing to ignore the needs of Ontario's culture, recreation, sports and fitness communities in order to divert funds to cover hospital operations."

Finally: "The bill blatantly ignores the government's legal liability and moral responsibility to use the surplus funds accumulated over the past 12 years for their originally legislated purpose, to support culture, recreation, sports and fitness as outlined in section 9 of the Ontario Lottery Corporation Act 1975."

That is what the alliance thinks of what the government is about. Surely nobody would accuse that group of being opposed to a properly funded health care system in the province of Ontario.

Let me use an example, if I might, of the whole question of this money going into hospitals. This was a letter from the Parks and Recreation Federation of Ontario last September. I think this really sums it up much better than I could have:

"Pitting parks, recreation, sport and culture against hospitals for funding dollars is a classic David-and-Goliath analogy. The budget for the Ministry of Health in 1988 is \$11 billion, or in more simple terms, \$1.25 million an hour. The 1988 Ontario budget statement identifies \$41.2 million available for recreation, sport and culture for capital conservation, capital construction and Wintario development grants, which are financed through the Ontario Lottery Corp. If all this \$41.2 million was taken away from the field of recreation and transferred to the Ministry of Health, which is responsible for hospitals, every last penny would be exhausted within a time frame of 33 hours. In other words, based on the spending rate of \$1.25 million per hour, the Ministry of Health would totally exhaust the 1988 budget allocation to recreation and culture in a day and a half."

It is not as though robbing culture and recreation is going to very much enrich the Ministry of Health budget. We are truly talking David and Goliath. For the government to say, "We need all this money to help fund hospitals because the opposition is demanding more hospital funding," is really stupid. That is not the proper argument because if you took all the money from culture and recreation, every last penny, the Ministry of Health budget would go through it in a day and a half. We are not talking about a situation in which the funding of health care is dependent upon culture and recreation funds. That is the last thing we are talking about.

1620

So I hope we will lay to rest the silly argument that government members sometimes put that we would be starving the operation of hospitals if we do not allocate this money to hospitals. If the government were really serious about it, they could have said at least, "We are determined to take some of this money into the health care system, particularly that accumulated budget, our surplus of \$1.6 billion," to use my numbers and about \$1 billion to use the parliamentary assistant's numbers. If the government said, "We are going to take some of that money and put it in the health care system because it has accumulated," fine. There would be no fuss, but that is not what it is doing.

We are talking about an ongoing process here. We are not talking about accumulated funds that

it wants to get rid of for the moment and put it into the health care system and then get on with proper funding of culture and recreation groups. That is not what we are talking about.

If the government had brought in a bill that said, "Those accumulated profits, whatever their amount, are going to go in as an injection into the hospital system and then we will get on with funding culture and recreation properly," fine. I, for one, would not have objected to that, but that is not what the government has done. That is why we and others are saying to the government—if it is serious about not doing away or cutting back on culture and recreation funding, then put it in the bill.

Say that there will be no decline, say that it will be indexed, say there will be some kind of guarantees for funding or say that a certain proportion is to go in. Say something. The way it is now, the government is saying that culture and recreation may get some money, but hospitals absolutely will. That is a very strange decision for the government to have made.

I would remind members that the purpose of the original bill was culture and recreation and now this bill really says the purpose is hospital operations. If culture and recreation are lucky enough to get any, so be it. That is what the government is really saying because it says that hospitals shall get it and culture and recreation may get it. I think that is why people out there are so concerned. It says that all of the accumulated funds must be allocated to hospitals.

I know that other members wish to speak. I do not wish to speak much longer, but I did want to tell the members some of the municipalities that are opposed to this bill. I will try to give the regional or upper-tier governments that are opposed to it: Blind River, Bruce Mines, Elliot Lake, Thessalon, Sault Ste. Marie, a whole bunch of communities in Bruce county, Cochrane, Timmins, Kapuskasing, Smooth Rock Falls, Moosonee, Brock, Uxbridge, Whitby, Oshawa, Port Stanley, Rodney, St. Thomas.

In Essex county—I am glad the member for Essex-Kent (Mr. McGuigan) was here—they are opposed to it. Frontenac county is opposed to it, as are Kingston, Durham, Hanover, Owen Sound, Haldimand, Haliburton, Oakville, Burlington, Milton, Ancaster, Dundas, Hamilton, Stoney Creek, Goderich, Wingham, Kenora, Sioux Lookout, Ignace, Dryden, Kent county, Dover, Dresden, Wallaceburg, Lambton county, Lanark county, Leeds and Grenville, Lennox and Addington, Manitoulin and Metropolitan Toron-

to, including Etobicoke, East York, North York, the city of Toronto and Scarborough.

Also opposed are London, Parkhill, Strathroy, Muskoka Lakes, Niagara Falls, St. Catharines, Port Colborne, Thorold, North Bay, Temagami, Cobourg, Ottawa-Carleton, Ottawa, Powassan, Caledon, Mississauga, Stratford, Caledonia, Prince Edward county, Fort Frances, Renfrew county, Amprior, Deep River, Killaloe, Bruce Mines, Coldwater, Cornwall, the regional municipality of Sudbury and the area municipalities there, Thunder Bay, Timiskaming, Wellington, Waterloo, York.

I could list a lot more. The opposition to this bill is extremely widespread. But I think I do not need to spend a lot of time on that, because I believe that when this bill goes out to committee—and I assume that this bill will be going out to committee and that the Conservative opposition will also support us as we attempt to make sure that this bill is debated widely in Ontario. There is no reason why it should not go out to committee to allow all those groups to express their view that this bill is wrong. If this government does not believe me or does not believe other speakers who are here this afternoon, perhaps it will listen to the groups as they make appearances before some committee of this assembly.

I do very much hope that there is no resistance on the part of the government to holding public hearings, because it is terribly important that groups all across Ontario be allowed to say to the government what they think of this bill. If there is nothing to worry about, then what a beautiful opportunity for the government to reassure all those organizations across the province that it is not ill-intentioned but that, on the contrary, it really is trying to do something useful.

The government really has nothing to worry about. If the parliamentary assistant's intentions are honourable and the intentions of the Treasurer are honourable, then they have nothing to worry about. They can quite willingly agree to send this out to committee—we can send it out anyway, I suppose, but it would be very nice to see this done with a lot of co-operation—to allow people of Ontario to have their say on a very fundamental change in the way that lottery funds are allocated all across this province.

Ms. Hart: I feel compelled to respond to my friend opposite about the honourableness of my intentions. Of course, the member for Nickel Belt will know that my intentions are usually honourable, and certainly the Treasurer's intentions in this case are upstanding and honourable.

I would like to correct an impression that my friend indicated he has, and that is that this notional surplus is in a sock somewhere waiting for someone to dig into the sock and pull out the gold. I hate to disabuse my friend of that notion, but unfortunately, there is no sock. This notional surplus, as I indicated before, has been built up over a number of years, and as my friend also knows, there was never any intention that this amount of money—and it is a big amount of money, as he mentioned; his figures are correct—would be spent on culture and recreation.

As my friend knows, the atmosphere in Ontario was very different in the early 1970s than it is now. Lotteries were considered to be a form of gambling, that was not necessarily the way to raise money, and that is why culture and recreation were set up as the reason for the lotteries and the moneys were to be spent on those purposes; but today we are talking 1989 and 80 per cent of Ontarians now think lotteries are a good way to raise money and a good way to raise money specially for priorities of the government.

1630

The Acting Speaker (Mr. M. C. Ray): Are there other comments or questions? Does the member for Nickel Belt wish to reply?

Mr. Laughren: I guess what the parliamentary assistant is telling me is that when the Treasurer said to me in his letter of December 7, "As of March 31, 1988, the cumulative unspent balance was \$369 million for the Ontario games and \$932 million for the interprovincial games," he did not really mean that. As a matter of fact, the Treasurer uses the term "cumulative unspent balance." When he said it was "unspent", what did he really mean? Did he mean it was spent?

I am confused because to me "unspent" means that you did not spend it and that therefore it is truly a surplus. I stand to be corrected, but in the world I live in, if I have unspent money in my pocket it means it is mine.

Mr. McGuigan: Not if you owe the bank money.

Mr. Laughren: No, he says that he has it there, that it is surplus, unspent money of that amount. The parliamentary assistant says my numbers are correct. When I now ante it up, it comes to about \$1.6 billion, so I am wondering if at some point the parliamentary assistant could clarify that question.

Mr. Marland: I appreciate the opportunity to participate in the second reading debate on Bill 119, the Ontario Lottery Corporation Amend-

ment Act. I must confess to a certain *déjà vu*, in a sense, in joining this debate, having been very actively involved in the fight against Bill 38 a few years ago. In that case, in a minority government situation, we were successful in blocking the bill and in persuading the Treasurer, at least temporarily, of the error of his ways. If nothing else, Bill 119 is a tribute to the Treasurer's perseverance. Having failed to win on Bill 38, he has now presented us with Bill 119, which while substantially different in a number of respects from its predecessor, raises many of the same concerns.

I think members might be interested to learn that the Treasurer's opposition to earmarking or dedicating lottery revenues predates the introduction of Bill 38 in May 1986. Before coming to the House, I had the opportunity to briefly review the Treasurer's remarks on second reading of Bill 191, the bill that established the lottery corporation as a crown agency a little more than 14 years ago.

During that debate the Treasurer, who of course then served the people of Ontario in a different capacity from the position he now holds, made clear his opposition in principle to the concept of dedicated revenues. If consistency and perseverance were the sole requirements of good policy, then Bill 119 would be a sterling piece of legislation. However, that is not the case.

I want to spend some time this afternoon to put before the Treasurer and this House some of the reasons why we and a large number of groups and municipalities in Ontario are concerned about Bill 119. When I say "we," I want to emphasize the members of the Progressive Conservative caucus in this Legislature.

I want to suggest to the Treasurer some ways in which this bill might be improved, some options he might want to look at to address the legitimate concerns of Ontario's sports, fitness, recreation and cultural communities that Bill 119 constitutes a double disfranchisement of their right of access to lottery funds.

Further, I want to discuss some of the ways in which lottery funds could be used to provide additional new funds for the province's health care system, ways that are more creative and substantive than the type of accounting legerdemain provided for under Bill 119.

I believe that when the Treasurer introduced this bill he said he expected to get some 1,500 protest letters. No doubt he has received them. He may also be aware that nearly 200 Ontario municipalities have expressed their support for a Toronto city council resolution opposing this

bill. He will know that in response to this bill, the sports, fitness, recreation and cultural groups formed an umbrella organization called the Alliance to Protect Culture, Recreation, Sports and Fitness in Ontario.

The groups that have formed this alliance are to be commended. They have to be congratulated for their volunteer efforts, their time and their dedication, for none of which are any of them being paid, in the interest of the protection of those member groups for the future of this province.

This level of mobilization should in itself be sufficient to signal to the government that Bill 119 deserves a hard second look. I think when you look at how these groups have come together in a very diverse way, considering that traditionally culture and art have been apart from sports, fitness and recreation, it must say something. This government, if it were a caring, listening government, would hear what they are saying. These groups have been highly motivated to come together in this alliance and have held numbers of public meetings, some of which I have been fortunate to participate in. They are dedicating thousands of hours to ensuring the protection of the needs of those groups.

It is our opinion this bill deserves a second look because it is deficient in a number of important respects. First, the bill does not provide any guarantee to the sports, fitness, recreation and cultural communities that their access to lottery funds, as provided for under section 9 of the act, will not be diminished over time. Unlike Bill 38, Bill 119 will not eliminate the section 9 provision making lottery profits available for appropriation for the promotion and development of sport, recreational and cultural activities, but it does expand the section to make the Ontario Trillium Foundation eligible for funding under the act.

Bill 119 will also put these groups in direct competition with Ontario hospitals for lottery dollars by providing that any net profits not appropriated for section 9 purposes "shall be applied to, and accounted for in the public accounts of Ontario as part of, the money appropriated by the Legislature in the fiscal year for the operation of hospitals." These provisions appear to me to set up a lottery funds shell game in which there are no real winners, but potentially very real losers, those being our sports and cultural groups.

1640

As I read it, Bill 119 certainly does not mean that as a result of its enactment Ontario hospitals

will receive one additional new dollar relative to the amount of operating funding they would receive as part of the normal expenditure allocation process. All the bill allows the government to do is to say that of the \$5 billion or \$6 billion in operating transfers, a certain amount comes from lottery profits. There is nothing to prevent the government from netting off the lottery appropriation against inflows from other revenue sources, leaving the hospitals with no net increase in funding. From my point of view, the bill is not designed to increase, on a net basis, the hospital operating transfer.

Further, in reviewing the bill, we should not forget that the government already has broad discretionary powers with regard to the allocation of lottery profits. This year, an estimated \$455 million in lottery profits will be paid into the consolidated revenue fund. Of that total, only \$156 million, or 34.3 per cent, will be generated by the Ontario games, the proceeds of which are to be available for appropriation for the support of section 9 activities.

The remainder of the lottery pot, about \$300 million, is paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund without any specific dedication attached to its expenditure. The government already has the ability to spend the lion's share of lottery profits on whatever programs and activities it deems necessary. I do not know what that \$300 million will be spent on this year, but it will most certainly be spent, and no doubt some of it will end up in that \$5.5 billion hospital operating transfer.

While the bill will not do anything for our hospitals, it could potentially damage the position of our sports, recreational, fitness and cultural groups. As the budget of the Treasurer of last spring noted, "If health care costs continue to escalate at rates experienced in the recent past, other social and economic priorities will be placed at risk."

The concern out there among these groups is that they will be the first to be caught in the spending squeeze. This concern is magnified by the fact that tax-based funding for recreational programs in particular, as noted in the Parks and Recreation Federation of Ontario's submission to the Treasurer, has been either discontinued or flat-lined in recent years.

I appreciate that the Treasurer has said this bill will not result in a funding cut for these groups, and no doubt the Minister of Culture and Communications (Ms. Oddie Munro) and the Minister of Tourism and Recreation have been out and about saying similar soothing things.

However, what they are essentially saying is, "Trust us," since there is no guarantee section 9 appropriations will not be reduced and there is no guarantee of a minimum funding level for sports, recreation, fitness and cultural groups.

I want to draw the Treasurer's attention to a Toronto Star editorial of October last which asked, in relation to this bill: "What happens to funding of sports, recreation and cultural activities? Will funding be maintained?" It went on to state: "There is no guarantee, and that is the problem. That is why sport and cultural groups are up in arms. They fear that commitments will be broken and long-established programs will fall victim to a hungry health care system."

The editorial then notes: "Nixon says this won't happen, but the matter is too important for trust alone. The Treasurer should amend his bill so that it guarantees continued funding of lottery profits for sports, recreation and culture." That is good advice. Some form of minimum revenue guarantee should be provided for these groups to protect them against the possibility their lottery funding will dry up.

Members of the House would no doubt want the opportunity to examine options for providing such a revenue guarantee, which could take a number of forms. For instance, the section 9 share of profits could be determined on a per capita basis, so that in any given fiscal year the amount of net profits available for appropriation for the support of sports, fitness, recreation and cultural activities would be an amount equivalent to, say, \$18 per capita, or the guarantee could take the form of a fixed percentage of total lottery profits. In any event, the question of the revenue guarantee is, as noted, too important a matter to be left to trust alone and should be included in the statute.

A second concern I have with this bill centres on its proposal with regard to the appropriation of lottery funds for hospital operating transfers. As I have already indicated, the bill's provisions on this point strike me as being a bit of a shell game, a nice way for the government to clean up its accounts while taking credit for flowing lottery money into the health care system.

If the government wants to direct lottery dollars into the health care system, why not do it in such a way that will meaningfully augment the financial resources available to the system, instead of simply tidying up the government's accounts?

For example, if, after it provides for a revenue guarantee for sports, fitness and recreational and cultural activities, the government wants to

appropriate excess lottery profits for health care purposes, then why does it not establish a special lottery projects account in the Ministry of Health to be accounted for in the public accounts, which could be used to finance a new medical technologies acquisition program, to supplement programs to attract medical specialists and doctors to northern Ontario or to start up a professional staff renewal program for Ontario hospitals?

Why does it not set up a special account so that the people of Ontario can clearly see what the lottery profits are being applied to, instead of using them to play games with the operating transfer?

I cannot leave this issue without pointing out to the members that up until 1986, proceeds from the interprovincial games paid into the consolidated revenue fund were used to support health and environmentally related health research, hospital capital projects and equipment acquisition, senior citizens' housing and the Ontario Trillium Foundation. That was prior to 1986.

Those dedicated uses were, however, revoked in 1986 by the very same government that now proposes to use Ontario games proceeds to finance operating transfers for hospitals. In any case, we should not be so deluded as to think that lottery funds provide the answer to spending pressures in the health care system. It would take the Ministry of Health less than two weeks to spend every single cent of the \$455 million in lottery profits paid into the consolidated revenue fund this year, and it would spend the total proceeds from the Ontario games in about four and one half days.

I know other members want to participate in this debate, so I will make only a few brief remarks on Bill 119's provisions with regard to the unexpended lottery profits. The bill provides that this unallocated surplus, currently estimated at \$369 million, will in the fiscal year in which the bill comes into effect, "be applied to and accounted for in the Public Accounts of Ontario as part of the money appropriated by the Legislature for the operation of hospitals."

1650

I confess that I have been unable to find this \$369 million accounted for anywhere in the public accounts. Treasury staff members have assured me that they do not have \$369 million sitting in a vault in the Frost Building. I am quite sure the Treasurer will tell us that he does not have \$369 million in a strong-box in the trunk of his car or salted away in the safe at Earl's Shell station. As far as I have been able to determine,

that \$369 million has been long spent. With this bill, we will be able to say what it has been spent on; specifically, the operation of hospitals in either this or the next fiscal year. This does not mean, were we to pass this bill today, that hospital administrators would wake up tomorrow with an additional \$369 million in their budgets. It just means that we can get it off the books.

The sports, recreational and cultural groups claim that this provision of the bill constitutes a retroactive expropriation of the unallocated surplus. They have recommended that this \$369 million be deemed to establish a trust fund, the annual interest on which would be used to finance new programs designed to reduce demands on the health care system. I think these groups, which have a lot at stake in this bill, should have the opportunity to make their case to a committee of this House in order that the trust fund option could be fully explored.

We, the Progressive Conservative caucus of this Legislature, cannot support this bill as it stands. Fairness requires that, at minimum, some form of revenue guarantee be provided for our sports, fitness, recreation and cultural groups, which are very dependent on lottery funding and which, as all members recognize, make a very significant contribution to the quality of life in our communities.

Mr. Haggerty: You are against hospitals, are you? Against health care?

Mrs. Marland: For the sake of the member for Niagara South, who has just interjected, I would like to remind him that there is a very important factor that is being lost in this entire debate by the Liberal government members, and that is the subject of preventive medicine. I respectfully suggest that physical fitness and recreation itself are two areas that are the actual practice of preventive medicine.

Also, participation in arts, other forms of culture, crafts, no matter what it is, can be a psychological escape from stress and other problems that living in 1989 provides for people. There again, because those opportunities exist for the people in Ontario today, we are actually practising preventive medicine. How much better that we talk about preventive medicine so that people eventually reduce the requirement for health care.

We would like to see measures to ensure that excess lottery funds are used to increase the financial resources available to our health care system in a substantive and creative way.

We, as Progressive Conservatives, would like to see if we in this House could provide for a

more fair disposition of the so-called unallocated surplus. We also believe that preventive medicine is an important aspect which must not be overlooked.

Before members vote this bill into law, we must ensure that we are fully aware of its implications for our municipalities and for all those organizations which rely on lottery funding.

One aspect that has not been addressed is the very important aspect of groups coming together within a community to fund-raise matching funds based on their eligibility for lottery funding. The kind of bonding and purpose that gives to our thousands of community groups around this province must not be lost in this debate. The oneness of sharing to contribute to the betterment of standards and the quality of life for other people in this province is an admirable course and commitment of time by thousands of individuals.

A committee of this Legislature provides us with the best mechanism for both educating ourselves with regard to the implications of the bill and for possibly improving it.

We as Progressive Conservatives look forward to the public's being invited to make comments and suggestions on how to improve this bill to protect the necessary funding for sports, fitness, recreation and culture, while sharing the profits for the provision of health care.

I look forward to an opportunity to comment on questions that other members of the House may have generated by my comments this afternoon.

Ms. Hart: My friend the member for Mississauga South referred to an editorial. I could refer to many from papers as diverse as the Toronto Sun and the Burlington Spectator, but I particularly want to draw her attention to one in the Hamilton Spectator last summer, where it directs the Treasurer to proceed with necessary legislation, whatever the criticisms.

It says: "Criticism of the legislation, however, appears to be exaggerated. Bill 119 would allow moneys from Wintario and Lottario tickets, which have been exclusively dedicated for physical fitness, sports, recreation and culture, to be used for hospitals and the Trillium Foundation, which helps social service organizations."

"The principle of the bill is not new. In fact, hospitals and the Trillium Foundation already receive the lion's share of funding from the interprovincial lotteries, such as Lotto 6/49 and the Provincial, which flows into the consolidated revenue fund like personal income tax. The

money helped to fund Ontario's \$850-million hospital capital expansion program.

"It would be wrong to think Ontario was abandoning fitness, recreation and culture. The bill specifies that recreation, culture and the Trillium Foundation will be given first priority when proceeds of the provincial lotteries are divided. Hospitals will only receive money when there is a surplus. In fact, Ontario allocated some \$96 million for culture and recreation in 1986, and is spending \$97 million for that purpose this year."

It goes on in the last paragraph: "On balance, we believe the majority of Ontario residents support Mr. Nixon in his attempt to provide more money for the most essential of all public services in Ontario. Let the bill proceed."

Mrs. Marland: I must say I do agree with one statement that the parliamentary assistant has just made, and that is where she said the majority of Ontario residents support the Treasurer's allocating more money for health care in this province, or words to that effect.

1700

There is no single individual in the Progressive Conservative Party in Ontario who would disagree with that. What we are disagreeing with in this bill is the lack of guarantee in any case of how much money will go to be allocated for hospital funding. Furthermore, what guarantee is there to the existing groups? What is so wrong about the bill is that it really is a nothing bill in terms of guarantee. As soon as money flows into the consolidated revenue fund, as the Hamilton Spectator says, God alone knows where that money goes.

The fact is, what we are looking for in our party is a guarantee that what has been a good thing will continue in terms of physical fitness, culture, recreation and sport in this province. What will help health care is a guarantee. There are no guarantees in this bill, because of the way it is written. We are simply allowing money to flow into a vehicle; namely, the consolidated revenue fund. Unfortunately, it is very difficult for the public or us, as members of this Legislature, to interpret where exactly that money goes.

There is no question that there is a need for additional health care funding in this province. Lord knows, we cry that every day in this House. What we want is to be sure that it will be there, that it will be guaranteed and that it will not be only at the whim of a Treasurer with a lottery fund.

Ms. Bryden: I am very pleased to participate in this debate on Bill 119, because I have been interested in the subject of lotteries and the allocation of lottery funds for over 10 years.

Yesterday we talked about a tax grab, the biggest tax grab in Ontario's history, the \$1 billion being brought in under the retail sales tax increase. It is a hit-and-run increase which will hurt the poor, single parents and those on fixed incomes like seniors and disabled persons. It was not even hinted at in the 1987 election campaign and it appears to be the Treasurer's idea of a fair tax system.

Today, we are looking at another tax grab by the provincial Treasurer. Bill 119, An Act to amend the Ontario Lottery Corporation Act, may not appear to be a tax bill. However, lottery purchases are really a voluntary tax. We instituted lotteries in this province in 1975, largely to keep the money that was going out of the province and out of the country to other sweepstakes and lotteries.

Those who buy lottery tickets do so because they like the excitement of a draw and also because they feel that part of the proceeds, that part not paid out in prizes, goes to worthy causes of which they approve.

I recognize there are many in this province who do not entirely approve of having and using lotteries in this province, church groups and other individuals who feel that they cater to the growth of gambling opportunities in the province. We all know there is such a thing as a gambling addiction and it does cause real social problems for some individuals. There are also many who question the lottery corporation's vigorous promotion of more and more different kinds of lotteries.

The corporation was set up principally to organize lotteries and administer them, but was it set up to increase the demand for gambling with all its attendant social evils? That has seldom been debated in this House. I am not going to debate it today, because I want to talk about what the provincial Treasurer is planning to do with the proceeds from the lotteries we have.

The government's main responsibility in the lottery field is to designate where the proceeds that are not paid out in prizes will go. In the initial bill in 1974, it said that the proceeds "may...be available"—may be available—"for the promotion and development of physical fitness, sports, recreational and cultural activities and facilities therefor." There was no other area to which the lottery funds could go, but it was a very big area and a very important area in our provincial

development of good health, good recreation and good cultural activities. It filled a very real need, because all of these activities were greatly underfunded, and lottery funds became an important source for many small groups scattered throughout the communities in this province. It became a source of help for individuals participating in these fields with very little support.

In 1986, the provincial Treasurer made his first attempt at grabbing these lottery proceeds. He introduced Bill 38, which simply struck out the designation in the original bill. That meant that the lottery corporation was set up to run lotteries, period, and he and the cabinet would have the complete power to dispense that money in any way they saw fit. There was no guarantee that any of it would go to the designated recreational and cultural fields mentioned in the original act.

In principle, I think most of us are opposed to earmarked funds, because it does limit the Legislature's power to deal with the entire revenue coming into the province. However, there seems to be an argument for earmarked funds in the case of lottery proceeds and that was what the original bill attempted to do. It carved out a large area of recreational and cultural needs and facilities that were neglected and earmarked the proceeds for that.

The present attempt by the Treasurer to change the allocation of the funds in Bill 119 is a very serious matter. Bill 38 aroused huge protests from thousands of Ontario residents who counted on lottery funding. It also revealed the provincial Treasurer as a despot who thought that he and his cabinet had a divine right to dispense lottery proceeds.

I was shocked to see that the member for Brant-Haldimand (Mr. R. F. Nixon), whom I had watched as Leader of the Opposition in the Ontario Legislature long before the change of government in 1985, was no longer a believer in a basic democratic principle, and that principle is that the power of the purse must be controlled by the Legislature, not by the provincial Treasurer and the cabinet. The allocation of lottery funds is a power of the purse.

We in the New Democratic Party opposed Bill 38, the first attempt by the Treasurer, and we were glad that the hue and cry about the Treasurer's proposal was so great that the government let the bill die in 1987 before the provincial election.

Now I am shocked that the Treasurer is not cured of his lottery-grab ambitions. He has

brought in this new bill, Bill 119, since the Liberals got a majority in September 1987.

It is a sneaky attempt to do what he wanted to do in 1986. Members will recall that "No taxation without representation" was a slogan in the reform days in England. Under this bill, the people of Ontario will have no say in the allocation of lottery taxation—which it really is—nor would any other resident who does not buy lottery tickets have any control over those funds that come into the provincial Treasury.

1710

Bill 119, as previous speakers have pointed out, has no guarantee in it that any funds will go to culture and recreation groups. It only says they may go to those groups, but they may also go to the Ontario Trillium Foundation, or if they do not go to any of those things at all, according to the largess of the Treasurer and the cabinet, they will all go to hospital operating costs.

The Treasurer is trying to win public acceptance for his tax grab, his lottery proceeds grab by saying any unexpended funds will go to the operation of hospitals. If he chooses to give nothing to recreation and culture or to the Trillium Foundation, then all of them will go to hospital operating costs and all those other needs will be left out in the cold.

We all recognize our hospitals are underfunded. We all know about beds being closed. We all know about surgery being delayed. We all know about the lack of money to pay nurses adequately. We know our hospitals are in trouble, but that is not going to be solved by earmarking all or a great majority of the lottery funds for the operating costs of hospitals.

It is the Treasurer's responsibility to see that the needs of hospitals and all other needs in this province are met in his budget in a fair allocation of funds. It is fiscally irresponsible on the Treasurer's part to propose that the operating costs of any ministry should be met through lottery proceeds. They are unpredictable, they are not very great and they may lead to the cutting back of other allocations that were given previously to hospitals, or to any other ministry, because these particular funds are expected to take their place.

This procedure the Treasurer is proposing takes away the Legislature's opportunity to decide what the allocation of budgetary funds is for each ministry in total. If it can be done for hospitals, if certain tax revenues can be earmarked for operating costs, it could be done for any other ministry and we would then have

budgetary chaos. Legislative control of the purse will be gone.

Hospital needs will not be met by passing this bill. They will be met by proper budgeting, by assessing their needs and by dividing the budgetary revenue total.

I recognize that capital costs for hospitals are another matter. Many worthwhile projects have been delayed due to shortages of government capital, with so many demands for school buildings, transportation improvements and new infrastructure. I think the government might consider setting up some sort of fund outside the lottery corporation to provide for donations and contributions to capital costs for hospitals, because that is a very great need. We should not be delaying the building of new hospitals and new institutions generally, schools and transportation. We should be gathering together the capital needs and having some sort of assessment of which are the most important.

This can be done by setting up a capital fund and an administration in which the public would have more say on our capital needs. I do not think this attempt by the Treasurer to grab whatever hospital money he can get out of the lottery proceeds is a sensible solution to our hospital and other capital costs.

We already give a lot of help to the capital costs of hospitals and to hospital research through the proceeds of the three lotteries that are interprovincial and are not covered by the Ontario Lottery Corporation Act of 1974. The lottery corporation operates six lotteries and the three that are covered by that act are Lottario, Wintario and the instant games. These accounted for only about one third of the lottery proceeds of \$455 million in 1987-88.

The other two thirds are really under the control of the joint interprovincial lotteries, which have their own allocation rules, and quite a few of their allocations do go to hospitals, particularly to capital costs. I do not think any of them go to operating costs of hospitals or of any other ministries across the country.

We are failing to look at the possibilities of helping hospitals through working with the other provinces on those funds that are not under the lottery act, but we do not help the hospitals by taking away the lottery funds that are allocated for sports, recreation and culture and leaving them with no guarantee they will get any funds.

If we defeat this bill, the sports, recreational and cultural activities will have a guarantee that they will continue to get all the proceeds of the three lotteries that are under provincial control. If

we defeat this bill, we will also be defeating the Treasurer's proposal to put all the unallocated lottery funds that are now in the revenue pot into hospital operating costs.

This is straight robbery of funds that belong to cultural and recreational organizations and facilities, which were granted the original proceeds that have been left unexpended, unallocated by the provincial government. They have been hoarded by the provincial government so it might be able, at some later date—if the Treasurer gets his way—to grab the unallocated and unexpended funds. This is exactly what he is doing in this bill, which is another reason for defeating it.

I might say that I also question his concept that some of the lottery funds should be allocated to the Ontario Trillium Foundation. That is being done at present and I am not sure whether it is justified by the legislation. It is true that the Trillium Foundation makes a great many grants in the cultural and sports field, but it also makes grants in the social welfare field.

It is true we have great needs in those areas, but I question the procedure of allowing a semi-autonomous corporation, operated by an autonomous board of directors, to decide who will get grants in the social welfare field. It seems to me there must be a democratic organization—not a private corporation, a private group of businessmen—making those decisions as to who will get a share of the lottery funds and whether they are justified under the legislation.

I think we should have a special granting body to review applications in the social welfare field, but it should be made up of citizens who would perhaps be appointed by the Legislature. We should advertise for participants who want to serve on the board of directors, as many of the municipalities do when they have a semi-autonomous board they wish to set up. I do not think it should be the private preserve of a group of wealthy businessmen to make the decisions.

1720

I think that possibly, when it was set up, the hope was that those businessmen would bring in some more of their own donations, and consolidate them in the same groups that were applying for lottery funds.

I certainly would encourage corporate donations and contributions. I think they should be greatly increasing their contributions from the small percentage they now give of their total profits. But I think the administration of any government funds that are given to social welfare programs should be by a government-appointed allocation body with public participation and

with public representation on the board, so that there can be no question then whether the funds are the will of the people, shall we say.

I urge the Treasurer to redeem his reputation of being a democratic, fair-minded Treasurer who looks after the preservation of our rights in controlling the purse by withdrawing this very improper legislation. I think he should consider that he should also not have any power to deal with the unallocated funds, but should make them available to all the designated groups that have been starved, I should say, for the last few years.

I know there are many, many cultural organizations that are just barely able to keep going, especially with the rising costs of all the business of putting on plays or putting on sports events. So many sports and cultural groups spend half their time raising funds. I think the Treasurer could do these groups a great favour and make himself much more popular if he released all those unexpended funds to the initial purposes of the Ontario Lottery Corporation Act.

Perhaps there are some that could go to some hospital capital funding. That would be preferable until we set up the investment fund I am suggesting, which would be operated as a provincial determinant of where investment funds should be allocated. It should not be left just to the lottery proceeds to decide which capital costs for hospitals will go ahead.

I urge the members on the other side to consider why Bill 38 was withdrawn and I hope the Treasurer will suddenly realize that Bill 119 is even more objectionable to the vast majority of the people in this province. This is what I am hearing in the kinds of letters and calls I am getting. I think it is time they had a change of thought over there, if they believe in democratic procedures.

The Deputy Speaker: Are there questions and comments on the member's statement?

Ms. Hart: I take exception to one of the comments made by my friend the member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden). I look at it from two perspectives. My friend indicated this was a hit-and-run increase that hurt the poor the most, if my writing was fast enough. My concern about those remarks is really a twofold concern.

First of all, it assumes that the recreation and cultural needs of the economically disadvantaged will not continue to be met and be enhanced, as they have been over the course of this government. The Treasurer has undertaken that the funding will continue to culture and recreation,

fitness and sport and the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

The ministers responsible—the Minister of Tourism and Recreation, the Minister of Culture and Communications and the Minister of Citizenship (Mr. Phillips)—have all made similar undertakings, and these people do not make those undertakings lightly. I submit to my friend that these undertakings are not made just at whim. It is the considered view of this government that the funding will be continued at acceptable levels.

The other thing I take exception to, although it was not said in these words, was the implication that lotteries are a tax on the poor. In fact, in recent studies conducted by the Ontario Lottery Corp., there was no substantiation for that generally held view. It was found that people at all income levels buy lottery tickets.

The Deputy Speaker: Do other members wish to comment or ask questions? If not, does the member wish to respond?

Ms. Bryden: I referred to the retail sales tax as the hit-and-run tax grab, but I refer to this as another kind of tax grab, when the government goes after the lottery funds as well. I think the two of them are very bad things on the record of the Treasurer as a democratic Treasurer, which we had thought he was from his early days in this House. He seems to have changed since he moved across the floor.

The Deputy Speaker: Do other members wish to participate?

Mr. Wiseman: I am pleased to take part in this debate. I would rather the bill were not here and I did not have to take part in this.

I am saddened in different ways. One way is that this government saw fit to help our health care system through lottery funds with the last budget of the Treasurer, when he took the largest tax grab of any Treasurer in history. Along with the tax grab, he had good sales, so he got eight per cent of many more dollars' worth of sales than the previous year, as well as the gasoline tax, the cigarette tax, the alcohol tax and so on.

We all know that a few years ago, the sales tax brought in about \$500 million. Now it brings in about \$1 billion. We see, and businessmen have talked to me, that this government is increasing its bureaucracy, probably by many millions of dollars. I have heard of anywhere from \$300 million to \$500 million when you take in the fringe benefits. We see the problems with health care that they have on a daily basis. Now they are trying to grasp at straws, in my opinion, to get all the money they can to fund health care.

Back in the 1970s, when I had the pleasure of being parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Health, we tried to funnel, and did funnel, some of the money into research on drug and alcohol abuse, as well as heart research; cancer was another. We felt if we could help through research, that would alleviate some of the health care needs.

I think back to when we had people over from Europe talking to us about the number of beds that were being held down over there from drug and alcohol abuse, something in the neighbourhood of 25 per cent of all the beds. I felt it was a way to help cut down on eventual health costs and make healthier citizens of the people of this province.

I heard the government House leader, the member for Renfrew North—I represent Renfrew South—say earlier on this afternoon that the people of Renfrew North were pleased with this legislation. I do not believe that is right. They want to see money go to fund their hospitals, but I believe if members were to know what the people of Renfrew North are really thinking, it is that they do not want to see it funded through games of chance.

We have seen—and I am starting on 19 years here now—municipalities that through Wintario money have been able to build community centres and playgrounds, and hopefully not only for the young people but people my age who play hockey once or twice a week and try to keep themselves in pretty good shape. As has been mentioned before, I think that is good preventive medicine.

1730

I notice the parliamentary assistant, in answering the member for Beaches-Woodbine, I believe, said that the funding would be there, pretty well giving us her assurance, but the bill does not really say that.

If they kept the funding at the level it is at today and took into consideration that if lottery funds continue to grow as they have over the past number of years they would more than meet inflation and the money would continue to flow to culture and recreation, I think most of us would not have too much concern about some of the money, if there was some additional money, going into health care.

I have always been surprised that we had a surplus left in our budget for culture and recreation, because, like many members in the House, I know of the needs in the area that I represent. I have heard the figure this afternoon that about 40 per cent of the capital projects

applied for were actually given out. I think that is pretty representative of all the constituencies in Ontario. I am sure, Mr. Speaker, in your riding you get only about 40 per cent of those that are submitted.

I feel that if we have this surplus, then we should earmark that at the present level we have and, as I said before, increase it if we are lucky, as we have been over the last few years, in having people take more and more the games of chance.

I would like to mention that in her opening statement, the parliamentary assistant said that times have changed—if I am not right in what she has said, she will correct me, I know—that people back in 1975, when the games of chance came out, used to look upon them as gambling but now they look upon them as something other than that, or something along that line. Maybe we have old-fashioned ideas, but I think a lot of people in my riding still look at them as games of chance and gambling. An awful lot of people participate in it, but I still have quite a number who have not bought a ticket as yet because they believe that it is a form of gambling.

The surplus has been mentioned at different times, and I believe \$361 million is the figure that the Treasurer will use to kind of close out the books on all the surplus that is there and try to funnel, if there is any there, into health.

It has been my recollection over the years with treasurers that once they get their hands on that money, there is not, as the member for Mississauga South said, any pot of gold over there; it is used up as they get their hands on it. We have seen that in a lot of ways with the fishing licences and with the tax on lumber; once it gets to the Treasury, we do not know where it goes. It goes into the general fund.

If the Treasurer in the past had felt that the surplus of money that he did not pay out through culture and recreation should have gone to hospitals, I am sure he had every opportunity to do it. Last year, he had \$41 million. He could have put that into hospitals if had wanted to. He did not need this bill to do that, because, as I said before, all treasurers have controlled the purse-strings there. He could have put it in there had he wanted to do it.

The many cultural groups that have come in to see me—and they are not all just in my riding, but others—and the recreational groups, are very nervous of this bill. I cannot believe for a minute that members of this Legislature, some of whom are making comments to some of the other speakers this afternoon, are not getting the same concerns back in their ridings. I am sure that they

are and that those people have told them they would like to see some sort of guarantee in there that funds will not go down but rather remain the same—or more.

I know there are a lot of people who want to speak on this and I have promised my colleague that I would not take too long; but this is something that I think every member of the Legislature should be speaking to on behalf of the people they represent in the ridings, to let the government know. I hope and pray that they will send this bill to committee so that the people who want to—and I know that there are lots of them—will come in and let the government know their concerns.

If it goes to committee, I hope that whoever sits on that committee will have an open ear—and not like in the Sunday shopping, where they were whipped into doing what the government wanted—and let their conscience be their guide because they are here to represent their areas, as we all are. On something like this, I believe they would be doing their people an injustice if they did not see that amendments were brought in to correct the flaws that I see in this bill.

Mr. McGuigan: I would like to make a comment to my friend the member for Lanark-Renfrew as to the lack of guarantee. I believe that there is a guarantee in section 9, which says, “the Lieutenant Governor in Council may direct, to be available for appropriation by the Legislature—”

Mr. Farnan: Is that “may,” sir?

Mr. McGuigan: Let me finish. The point is that the Lieutenant Governor in Council may direct the entire funds to those purposes. The member pointed out that he may not, but I would like to point out that he also may.

The other guarantee that backs that up is simply the order in which these items are presented in the bill. The first order is to “the promotion and development of physical fitness” and so on, and “for the activities of the Ontario Trillium Foundation.”

The third order is that the remainder go “into the consolidated revenue fund.” I take that as a pretty good guarantee that an honourable government—and I happen to think that this government is honourable, as I thought the previous government was honourable—would carry out that commitment. We heard it from many members of the government, from the Treasurer and from people who have spoken here today.

I would like to make a comment too about the question of the consolidated revenue fund, which my friend mentioned. There are many things that

I blame the former government for; but one of the things that I give it great credit for, as a system of government, is that we have a consolidated revenue fund, as opposed to the United States, where there are various funds. The thing I want to bring up as an example is that in the early 1950s and 1960s in the United States—

The Deputy Speaker: The member’s time is up.

1740

Mr. Wiseman: I would like to reply to my friend’s comments, where it says “may” in the bill. I am sure that if he went to a bank manager—and there is a former bank manager behind him—and the bank manager said, “I may lend you the money to spray your fruit trees and everything,” I do not think the honourable member would take that, run to the hardware store and buy all the spray. It would be a lot better if the bank manager said, “I’ll lend you the money for it.”

Mr. McGuigan: I did that all the time, Doug. That’s the way I ran my business.

Mr. Wiseman: Knowing the honourable member as I do, he probably does not have to go to the bank, but if he did have to go to the bank, he would want to hear, “I will lend you the money” and not, “I may lend you the money.” I think that is what the people are worried about out here, not that they will see the revenue remain as it is. I am sure, as I said before, the member would not go run to the hardware store if he were short the money with an “I may lend it to you.” I know the bank manager behind the member would certainly agree with me.

Mr. Farnan: We have just witnessed a most extraordinary scene in this House. We had the member for Essex-Kent stand up and defend this legislation by saying that the sports and cultural groups will have their funding protected because of the word “may” in the legislation. They may receive the funding.

He went on to qualify that remark by saying that he trusts the sports and cultural groups will indeed receive this funding because he has faith, he says, in an honourable government. Let me tell members, there are many people out there across Ontario who do not share that faith in this government, that the member for Essex-Kent suggests they base their trust upon, with regard to funds.

This is the government that said, “We have a very specific plan to reduce auto insurance,” and broke that promise. This is the government that said on Sunday shopping, “We believe in a

common pause day," and then changed its mind on that issue despite the overwhelming voice of the people of Ontario. This is the government that now says to the sports and cultural groups of Ontario, "You may receive the funding." Why, in goodness' name, would the sports and cultural groups of Ontario have any faith and confidence in that kind of contract with a government that has clearly had a record of breaking its promises?

Let me suggest that the debate we are having right now is a very devious move on the part of the Liberal government of Ontario. What I hear and what I do not hear—let me talk about what I do not hear in this debate. I do not hear any discussion about what is an adequate funding level for the sports and cultural groups of Ontario. There is no discussion on the part of the Liberal government to say, "We believe this is a realistic funding level that we are prepared to ensure sports and culture get in Ontario."

The Liberal government has moved the debate away from the amount of funds that sports and cultural groups should get and has moved it to the source of funds. How clever. We know that sports and recreation have been receiving a decreasing level of funding from this government in real dollars. Instead of discussing the real issue, what is an appropriate level of funding, we have the Liberal government trying to divert their attention with a motherhood direction of saying, "Hospitals are good."

Members opposite will find nobody in this House who will disagree with the government on that basis. However, the Liberal government is losing an opportunity to play a leadership role by stating the minimum funding level for sports and culture that is appropriate in Ontario. This is indeed, I would suggest, a moment of opportunity to establish a leadership role by making a clear-cut commitment to the ongoing funding of sports and culture, but the member for Essex-Kent is clearly off the mark if he believes that a commitment to sports and culture is to be based on the premise that one may receive some of these funds.

Let me say that I am frankly disappointed in several of the ministers of cabinet. I am disappointed in the Treasurer, that jovial and happy financial tax-gatherer, whose constant occupation seems to be to devise ways and means to tax the Ontario public to the hilt, whether it is a sales tax, whether it is land transfer, whether it is lot levies. The only tax the Treasurer is not interested in is a speculation tax that would perhaps control the cost of housing. In every

other aspect, we find the Treasurer simply bilking the taxpayers of Ontario.

I do not see, for example, the Minister of Tourism and Recreation or the Minister of Culture and Communications, or members of the cabinet, standing up for the groups they are supposed to represent. I do not see the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Wrye) taking a stand on this issue either, as he nods his head in agreement that he would anticipate that these other ministers should be making a stand.

Let me say what I would do as the Minister of Tourism and Recreation within a New Democratic Party government. It would certainly not be what is happening on the Liberal benches right now. I think we could, for example, establish that the \$369 million of unallocated surplus be put into a trust fund. This amount of money, the interest generated on this fund, would be targeted for new government programs designed to reduce the stress on the health care system in the long term. The preventive components of recreation and the promotion of leisure and healthy lifestyles should play a major role in this initiative of preventive health care.

That is the difference between Liberals and New Democrats. We have a vision of where we want to go. Unfortunately, the Liberal government does not have this vision.

Preventive health care is something we have urged upon this government for a long time. It is a fact that only one tenth of one cent of every health care dollar goes to preventive health care. This is a tragedy in this province. If we were to invest in preventive health care, we could reduce the exorbitant cost that is crippling our economy in terms of paying for health care costs down the road in institutionalization, in hospitalization. If we were to invest in real preventive health care through sports, recreation and culture, then I believe we would be saving the taxpayers money in the long run.

Let me suggest that it is always encouraging for us when we find that our good ideas are getting through to the government. Occasionally we have heard the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) talk about preventive health care. It is unfortunate that all we are getting at the moment is talk. We are not getting responsible action; we are not getting investment in preventive health care. Of course, the tragedy of the matter is that the result constitutes increased expenses for institutional care down the road.

I want to turn for a moment and say, of course, that New Democrats will never play second

fiddle to Conservatives or Liberals when it comes to the issue of funding health care. That is not the issue here. When the founder of medicare, our former federal leader and Premier of Saskatchewan, Tommy Douglas, first instituted this concept—and we had to spend a long time convincing Conservatives and Liberals that this indeed was a good idea—he did not come along and say: “Medicare is a good idea. Let’s have a comprehensive health care system and let’s fund it out of lotteries.” Tommy Douglas did not have the idea of funding health care out of lotteries. He did not say, “Let’s have more operations in good lottery years, and in bad lottery years we can say to people: ‘Sorry, that triple bypass is not on this year, after all. This is a bad lottery year and therefore we just have to do a little bit of cutback here.’” It is really sad.

1750

Health care is an integral, important right that the citizens of Ontario and Canada have come to expect. They demand from our governments and from our elected leaders a secure and guaranteed source of income for our health care system.

At this moment, I would like to draw the attention of the House to an article that appeared in the Premier’s own backyard journal, the *London Free Press*, on November 2, 1988. The title of the article was, *Reliance on Lotteries is a Risky Business*. It says:

“California has been using lotteries as a source of funds for education—a practice the state’s school superintendents say has backfired. Ontario is now proposing to divert more lottery profits from recreation and culture to hospitals.”

There is a very sensible warning here, because what has happened is that the funding for education has decreased in California as the funding generated from lotteries has decreased. As the dependency on lottery funds became increasingly the *modus operandi* in California, the government commitment to the education area became less and, as a result, we had a reduction in the level of funding in California to education, linked directly, I suggest, to the dependency on lottery funds.

A survey taken of California’s 1,074 school superintendents “...showed: 95 per cent of the respondents said the lottery has undermined legislative support for education funding, 94 per cent said it has cut public support of schools, 71 per cent said lottery funds have not solved any financial problems in their districts, 87 per cent said the lottery is an ‘unreliable’ source of money and 54 per cent branded it an ‘undesirable’ funding source.

“Profits from California’s lottery were supposed to supplement normal school funding, not take its place. By law, 34 per cent of lottery ticket sales goes to public education—from kindergarten...” through to university. That is the prospect that lies ahead of us in Ontario if we divert the funds from the area of sports and recreation to what we consider to be an essential service.

When lotteries were first instituted, the government committed the profits from lotteries to culture, recreation, sports and physical fitness. Since that time, both the previous government and this one have tried to divert money from that purpose. All of the profits from the Provincial lottery, Lotto 6/49 and Super Loto were diverted to general revenue long ago; \$296 million in 1987 alone. Profits from Wintario, Lottario and the Instant, \$169 million in 1987, are left to fund culture and recreation and the Trillium Foundation. But \$369 million of that money has been allowed to accumulate while legitimate grant applications have gone unfulfilled.

We have heard today the percentage of groups that applied for this fund that was originally directed towards them. These are legitimate, justifiable projects which have not been funded by the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation. Funding from lottery programs—what we are talking about here are groups of men and women who look after our kids, who coach our kids, who look after neighbourhood groups, who are working with all kinds of worthwhile projects. What we are saying to them is, as the Liberal member for Essex-Kent said, “You may receive funding.” That is a real commitment.

Let me turn for a moment to the idea that was suggested by my colleague the member for Beaches-Woodbine. The parliamentary assistant suggested that the member for Beaches-Woodbine was incorrect when she said that lotteries are a regressive tax. I want to put the record straight because the parliamentary assistant is not properly relaying the results of the survey that was taken. She is being very, very selective. It is true that the survey that was taken indicated that lottery tickets are bought by people in every socioeconomic group. It was even suggested that more lottery tickets were bought by middle-income Ontarians.

But let me give the parliamentary assistant some figures which clearly indicate that it is a regressive form of taxation. In 1986, 49 per cent of families with incomes under \$10,000 bought lottery tickets, spending an average of \$49, according to Statistics Canada. By contrast, 81 per cent of families with incomes between

\$50,000 and \$60,000 bought tickets, spending an average of \$238.

Certainly they spent more on the tickets. However, and this is the point, for low-income families that expense amounted to 0.65 per cent of their total income and for higher-income families it was 0.25 per cent. In that sense, I put it to the parliamentary assistant to accept the fact that this is a regressive tax and that it hurts poor people more than it hurts those people who are better off.

The parliamentary assistant, in her opening remarks said, "The government is totally committed to culture and recreation."

Mr. Ballinger: Hear, hear.

Mr. Farnan: I am glad to see the member for Durham-York carrying on with his continued abuse in the background because that seems to be the nature of his contribution to this House. Certainly when we are trying to discuss an issue

which is of grave significance to culture and recreation groups within this province, that is not the type of representation we would anticipate from the member from that part of the province.

Certainly, I believe that the culture and recreation groups are going to be very disappointed, not so much because he is supporting government legislation, but because he is not prepared to allow a civilized debate or to have opposition members present their remarks. What we have from my good friend is a very low degree of involvement which is purely disruptive.

Mr. Speaker: The member may wish to glance at the clock. If he has further remarks, he may wish to adjourn the debate.

On motion by Mr. Farnan, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

ANSWER TO QUESTION IN ORDERS AND NOTICES

COSTS OF PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

437. Mr. McCague: Would the Minister of Municipal Affairs inform the House of the cost of the kit and contents promoting Local Government Week, entitled We're Working for You!, broken down to each of its components and the

list of companies invited to bid on the work and prices submitted? [Tabled February 9, 1989]

Hon. Mr. Eakins: The production costs for the kit and contents promoting Local Government Week, entitled We're Working for You!, were as follows (all costs are before taxes):

Printing				
Bidder	Admat	Kitfolder	Posters	Booklet
Maracle Press Ltd.*	\$742.00	\$3,696.00	\$3,860.00	\$3,038.00
Multicolour Prtg. Co.	633.00	5,479.00	6,239.00	3,788.00
Globe Graphic Comm.	869.75	4,025.00	5,790.00	4,290.00

*Successful bidder.

The above prices were for a quantity of 3,500 of each item except the poster (20,000 copies).

The final cost of printing the posters, booklets and kitfolders was slightly higher than indicated above, as the ministry made some colour changes to the kit after the original tender. Final cost figures are not available from the printer at this time.

The letters and order form were printed separately by Amanda Graphics at a cost of \$463.

Typesetting (booklet only)

Linotext Inc. \$355

Translation (booklet only)

Government Services—translation bureau \$558

Graphic services

Includes theme design, colour design, preparing illustrations and the design, typesetting,

photostats and assembly for the poster, kitfolder, booklet and admat.

Linda Johnston Graphics* \$14,910

*Graphic services are tendered for at the beginning of each fiscal year. The bids received for 1988-89 were as follows:

Linda Johnston Graphics \$50 per hour

Summerhill Communications
Group Inc. \$60 per hour

The total cost of preparing all the Local Government Week material, exclusive of the cost of the additional colour work done by the printer, was \$27,622 (\$33,294.61 including federal and provincial taxes).

The kit also included a copy of the English/French version of Welcome to Local Government in Ontario, an in-stock handbook produced in 1987-88 as part of the government's multiculturalism initiative. Its approximate unit cost was \$2.37.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

-
- Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breaugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)
Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health (Orléans L)
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)
Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)
 Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC)
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)
Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)
Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A., Speaker (Perth L)
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)
Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet and Minister of Financial Institutions (Bruce L)
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)
Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)
Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)
 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)
Grandmaitre, Hon. Bernard C., Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)
 Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)
 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)
Hošek, Hon. Chaviva, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)
 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)
 Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L)
Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G., Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L)
 Kormos, Peter (Welland-Thorold NDP)
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)
Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)
 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)
 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)
 Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)
 MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)
 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)
Mancini, Hon. Remo, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)
 Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)
 Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP)
 Matrundola, Gino (Willowdale L)
 McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)
 McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)
 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)
 McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)
 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)
McLeod, Hon. Lyn, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)
 Miclash, Frank (Kenora L)

Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)
 Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)
 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)
Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier and Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics (Brant-Haldimand L)
Oddie Munro, Hon. Lily, Minister of Culture and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)
O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Quinte L)
 O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)
 Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)
Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government Services (Ottawa Centre L)
 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)
Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and President of the Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (London Centre L)
 Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)
Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship (Scarborough-Agincourt L)
 Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Prescott and Russell L)
 Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)
 Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)
 Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)
 Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)
 Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)
 Rae, Bob (York South NDP)
Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional Services (Timiskaming L)
 Ray, Michael C., Deputy Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Windsor-Walkerville L)
 Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)
 Reycraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)

Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and Food (Huron L)
 Roberts, Marietta L. D. (Elgin L)
 Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)
 Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)
Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General (St. George-St. David L)
 Smith, David W. (Lambton L)
Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General (London South L)
 Sola, John (Mississauga East L)
Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour (York Centre L)
 South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)
 Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)
 Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)
 Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)
Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
 Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)
 Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)
 Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry PC)
Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of Education (Wentworth North L)
 Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)
Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio (Dufferin-Peel L)
 Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)
Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy (Fort York L)
Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)

*The alphabetical list of members appears in each issue. Lists of the members of the executive council, parliamentary assistants and members of committees, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard in the first and last issues of each session and on the first sitting day of each month.

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No. 155

Hansard

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Wednesday, March 1, 1989

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Mr. Mackenzie: The arrogance of the Liberal government continues unbridled. We have a piece of legislation, Bill 162, which is so badly flawed that the only way it can be saved is to scrap it completely; yet the Liberals are proceeding with its implementation, although it has yet to be passed.

The Liberals agreed to public hearings on Bill 162, but then cut off the number of submissions they would hear. The government claims most of the submissions are from organized labour groups that would be saying exactly the same thing. The Liberals hate repetition. They do not want to be reminded that they do not know what they are doing.

One of the people who will not be allowed to appear before the committee is June Howard of Ingersoll in the riding of Oxford. Mrs. Howard presented her member of the provincial parliament, who is also a member of the standing committee, with a copy of her brief and asked for his assistance so she could present it to the committee.

Guess what? Mrs. Howard is on the waiting list for the Toronto hearings. Mrs. Howard is not connected with any organized labour group. Mrs. Howard is an individual whose husband has churned through the compensation system. Mrs. Howard has some legitimate complaints and she has the right to be heard.

Of course, this government is open, honest and without walls or windows. They do not need walls or windows, because they will not let anyone talk to them. June Howard deserves to be heard on Bill 162. So does everyone else who has something to say about the bill, but the Liberals refuse to listen. Maybe they will finally, during the next election campaign, get the message on what it costs to muzzle people.

MINISTRY POLICIES

Mr. Pollock: Yesterday, I questioned the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) in

regard to the unfortunate passing of Landmarks magazine. While the minister insisted that the decision to discontinue Landmarks was entirely economic, we on this side of the House do not think that was the case. It seems clear to us that Landmarks was discontinued because there was no good news to print about the current Minister of Natural Resources and his many unwise policies.

This fact, coupled with the extreme media pressure and the general public's dislike of the direction in which the minister is taking the Ministry of Natural Resources, is the real reason for cancelling Landmarks. What was to be a "no walls, no barriers government" is today a government without direction. The erection of walls and barriers and the secrecy of the Minister of Natural Resources are well illustrated through the cancellation of Landmarks and his refusal to hold public meetings into the Bugar report.

We on this side of the House are not so secretive. In fact, tonight we are sponsoring a public forum on the Bugar report, to begin at 7 p.m. at the Scarborough council chambers. I would like to take this opportunity to invite the minister, his parliamentary assistant and all members to this meeting. It appears that this evening's forum may prove to be the only opportunity for an open and frank discussion on the Bugar report. I urge the minister, the parliamentary assistant and all those who are genuinely interested in the future of Ontario conservation authorities to join us tonight.

HOUSE PRICES

Mr. J. B. Nixon: I would like today to paraphrase portions of a letter written by the Toronto Home Builders' Association and published in the North York Mirror. I think it is a letter to which both the opposition parties and the media might listen.

The letter said, "In his attack on North York Mayor Mel Lastman...editorial writer David Nickle states, 'the recent escalation in housing prices...now puts the price of an average North York home at \$800,000.'"

"In the same issue Mr. Nickle informs readers...that he visited a grade 7 class and told

students 'about journalism and how stunningly complex it all is.'

"It certainly is complex. One of those complexities is making sure of the facts. It's called research....

"Our news release"—that is, of the Toronto Home Builders' Association—"outlined 'the average asking price of a new detached home' built in 21 Metro-area regions. Since North York is virtually built out, the \$806,000 figure was based on one 200-home subdivision.... There was no other subdivision anywhere in North York that met our criteria of at least 15 homes.

"We even underscored the key phrase to minimize a possible misunderstanding of the statistics. Seems the shock value was too good to pass up. Why let facts get in the way of a good story?

"North York is a great place to live and work. It is a vibrant city, with a wealth of recreational and cultural facilities for all North Yorkers to enjoy, whether they live in moderately priced apartments or multimillion-dollar mansions," something for the opposition to think about.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Mr. Hampton: Since last spring, when the government introduced Bill 162, it has become very apparent that what the government intends to do with Bill 162, what it is trying to do with Bill 162 is not mere tinkering. It is regarded by many injured workers and by many workers across the province as a fundamental change in workers' compensation provisions and in workers' compensation benefits.

Given that it is such a fundamental change in legislation, why are people like Vic Baskin of the Canadian Paperworkers Union local in Thunder Bay, Robert Lavalley of another Paperworkers local in Thunder Bay, Dick Facca of another Paperworkers local, Nancy Fisher from the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce, Greg McColgan from the United Transportation Union, Jim Kempton from the United Steelworkers of America, Oliver Piccinin from the Canadian Union of Postal Workers and Charles Meeking from the Thunder Bay and District Labour Council in effect being denied the right to be heard, the right to present their submissions as to why this legislation is wrong-headed and is going in the wrong direction?

It is time for the government to open up the hearings on Bill 162, so that all who are going to be affected can be heard.

NATIONAL SPACE AGENCY

Mr. Sterling: I would like to congratulate John Turner, the leader of the federal Liberal

Party, on the delivery of one of his election promises. He and Ed Broadbent promised to locate the federal space agency in Montreal. Today that is going to happen.

We had a very real shot at getting this prestigious centre. Ottawa-Carleton should have been the logical choice. Of the 22 companies across Canada that do space-related work—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Sterling: —three are in Quebec while eight are in the Ottawa area alone.

It was the responsibility of Ontario politicians to lobby the federal government to show the necessity and the practicality of locating the agency in Ottawa.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Sterling: We must question the effectiveness of the Premier (Mr. Peterson) and his minister in their lobbying tactics. A few token words of support were hardly adequate. Over the past four years the Premier has used every opportunity to practise federal-government bashing. He has done little to show any co-operative spirit.

On the other hand, Quebec quickly reacted to the announcement in late 1986 of the intention to create this agency. As many as 10 meetings were held with delegations from that province before Ontario took any action to intervene.

This government has benefited at the polls from federal-government bashing, but it has cost the people of Ottawa-Carleton the federal space agency.

1340

GEORGE P. MACKIE PUBLIC SCHOOL

Miss Nicholas: The George P. Mackie public school parents and teachers association's annual Fun Fair, to be held on April 8 this year, again will be entitled "Free the Children." This year's campaign will use funds raised from donations to adopt children in underdeveloped countries. The plan is to adopt one child for each grade from kindergarten through grade 6 and to keep writing to the children on a regular basis.

The usual fun and frolic will culminate with the entire school emptying out into the playing field to stand in a large circle. Each person, young and old, will be given a helium-filled balloon as a symbol of his joy and freedom. They will then, all together, release their balloons as a symbol of hope and freedom with a wish that their balloons be carried in the wind and carry the

message that we all share, the message that we do care and we will share.

The George P. Mackie public school hopes to raise our levels of consciousness to the needs of others, both in our children and in ourselves. "Free the Children" is starting in Toronto and going nationwide. The school is aiming at every school eventually being a sponsor. Joe Trentadue, chairman of the association, and parents are to be congratulated for organizing such a fine event. I attended last year and was overwhelmed by the energy and enthusiasm that went into this event, both from the children and from the parents. I would like to stand here and congratulate them again today.

HAZARDOUS SPILL

Mr. Farnan: The recent spill of 40,000 pounds of soy-based oil at Canadian General Tower in Cambridge revealed an ineptness and reluctance on the part of the Ministry of the Environment to be responsive and honest in its handling of the matter.

There was 10 times more heavy oil spilled than originally reported by the ministry. Some of the oil did enter the Grand River, contrary to the statement made by a ministry official, and it took an anonymous phone call to the Cambridge Reporter to reveal that we were dealing with a 40,000-pound spill as opposed to the 4,000 pounds reported by the Ministry of the Environment.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

FUNERAL SERVICES

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I want to inform the House that it is the government's decision to release shortly two unnumbered bills regulating bereavement services that will ensure a more equitable marketplace for consumers, business and non-profit groups through improved access to information and services.

Due to technical difficulties in drafting the strengthened consumer protection measures decided by the government, the bills will not be available before the Legislature rises. I am announcing these decisions today, however, in order to clarify the environment in the bereavement sector. We will be meeting shortly with all affected groups to explain the decisions taken by the government and to discuss implementation processes.

The new Cemeteries Act and the Funeral Directors and Establishments Act will be formally introduced in the Legislature when the House resumes in the spring. The provisions contained

in the Prearranged and Prepaid Funerals Act, Bill 27, which is currently before the House, have been incorporated into the new legislation. I would like to emphasize that the bills we will be releasing are the result of extensive study and consultation between government, industry, nonprofit participants and consumer groups.

Our review has shown that both existing pieces of legislation, the Funeral Services Act and the Cemeteries Act, are not only out of date but they are cumbersome and difficult to administer.

The government proposes to transfer responsibility for funeral service legislation from the Ministry of Health to the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations. In conjunction with that transfer, the Board of Funeral Services will report to the consumer ministry.

The legislation I am announcing today focuses on enhanced consumer protection. For that reason, both the Funeral Directors and Establishments Act and the new Cemeteries Act contain certain provisions that are similar. I want to outline a few of them.

Purchasing death care services is a uniquely sensitive transaction. During the consultation process, considerable attention focused on the issue of door-to-door and telephone solicitation. This type of marketing presents the unavoidable risk that the ill or recently bereaved may be contacted. Due to the undesirable nature of this type of solicitation, the new legislation prohibits all telephone and door-to-door solicitation for funeral and cemetery services.

The two proposed bills include strengthened disclosure provisions. Itemized price lists must be available and funeral establishments and cemeteries will be required to provide reasonable information to the consumer over the telephone upon request.

Unethical business practices such as excessive pricing, misleading or deceptive advertising and high-pressure sales tactics are prohibited. All money received for pre-need funeral and cemetery services will need to be placed in trust and all contracts may be cancelled within 30 days of signing at no cost.

Under the new legislation, consumers will be guaranteed the right to purchase a nontraditional funeral or basic low-cost funeral. In addition, licensed transfer services will be permitted to offer to the public basic disposition services. This service includes the removal and transportation of the deceased and the filing of documents.

In response to the changing practices, values and preferences of our multicultural population, funeral directors will be licensed in two catego-

ries: those who perform embalming and those who choose not to embalm.

To allow continued consumer choice of services and ensure fair competition within the industry, the new legislation continues and clarifies the current prohibition against an operational connection between funeral homes and cemeteries.

For the first time, operational connections will be clearly defined and will include, for example, joint marketing, referral selling and common directorships. The regulations will also prohibit funeral establishments and cemeteries from being located on one site. These prohibitions will be strictly enforced by my ministry.

To keep pace with emerging issues and trends and to foster a better understanding within the bereavement sector, a minister's advisory committee, independent of this legislation, will be established, with representation from all key industry, nonprofit participants and consumer groups.

In outlining these reform initiatives, I stress the government's commitment to provide improved consumer protection and disclosure; to address the needs of our multicultural population, and to ensure more stringent regulation of the commercial aspects of the bereavement industry.

NATIVE LAND CLAIM

Hon. Mr. Scott: As members of this Legislature will know, the Temagami, or Bear Island, Indian land claim has raised numerous complex issues for this government and for previous Ontario and federal governments. Two days ago, on Monday, February 27, the Ontario Court of Appeal handed down its judgement on the Temagami band's claim. The court's judgement has major implications for land claims in Ontario and across Canada. In particular, it has direct impact on the Teme-Augama Anishnabai and on all residents in the Temagami area.

The main issue before the court was the TAA's assertion that they have never signed a treaty and that they therefore have an interest in the approximately 4,000 square miles of Ontario crown land within the land claim area.

As in the 1984 judgement of Mr. Justice Steele, the Ontario Court of Appeal has rejected this claim by the Temagami Indians. The Court of Appeal ruled that the TAA were either parties to the Robinson-Huron treaty of 1850 or were subsequently bound by adhesion to that treaty thereafter.

That ruling is not, of course, the end of the matter. While the courts have definitively rejected the band's claim that it was never bound by the treaty, the issue of what the band is entitled to under the treaty was not before the courts and must now be addressed.

This government acknowledges that the Anishnabai have not in the past received their full entitlement under the treaty. Ontario continues to be willing to meet its obligations under the treaty, and on that basis we are today prepared to make an offer of settlement to the Temagami Indian people of land to meet their outstanding treaty entitlement.

The Ministry of Natural Resources is also prepared to discuss a new role for the band in the land and natural resource management in the Lake Temagami area. This new role would be in keeping with the intent and spirit of the original treaty; that is, to effectively develop modern treaty arrangements.

I have distributed to the members of the House a map that shows the approximate boundaries of the proposed reserve that was mutually agreed upon by the band and the federal government in the 1880s. It is this government's proposal that the land can now form the basis for the provision of an expanded reserve, which will be, by the way, some 50 times the size of the current reserve at Bear Island.

We now expect that Ottawa will join with us and help to bring this issue to a resolution. Federal involvement is at the heart of the resolution of a treaty issue. While the issue of crown land is the responsibility of the province and we herewith make our offer, the entitlement to compensation for unpaid annuities, which is an unfulfilled entitlement in this case, must be addressed by Ottawa.

The Ontario government is committed to bringing about a negotiated settlement, and we call on both the federal government and the band to meet with us to begin the process of finally resolving the issues.

1350

RESPONSES

NATIVE LAND CLAIM

Mrs. Grier: Responding to the statement by the Attorney General (Mr. Scott), I am quite sure the government wishes to finally resolve this matter. I think the dilemma and its continuing saga to a large extent have been brought by this government upon itself by its actions with respect to the Temagami wilderness.

What I find strange in the statement by the Attorney General today is that there is no acknowledgement of the fact of the band's decision to appeal the judgement that was rendered. Surely the Attorney General recognizes that the band does not feel as yet that it is covered by the treaty, and that the negotiations he is suggesting are decidedly premature until the disposition of the appeal.

In fact, as the band said in its statement yesterday, it seeks an explanation from the Prime Minister and the Premier (Mr. Peterson) as to why coexistence is not possible and why denial of their ownership is not considered a crime against humanity.

The other silence in the Attorney General's statement is no mention of a commitment not to proceed any further with either of the road extensions until the issue has been finally determined. I hope we can get that commitment.

Mr. Pouliot: This is a sad day indeed for our First Ontarians and our First Canadians. I would like to remind the Attorney General, as we did—

Hon. Mr. Scott: That's really odd. We offer a lot of land and you say it's a sad day.

Mr. Pouliot: Can he can stop interjecting for a second?

The establishment of a land base and the settlement of long-outstanding land claims forms a very important and crucial component of the resolve, the promise and the fulfilment of self-government for our First Canadians.

The Attorney General would perhaps agree that courts of law in Ontario and in this country in this endeavour—tripartite agreements are not the best possible way to resolve the problems. One does that with intent, spirit and commitment, and with some funding to at long last give the first people of our province, the first people of this country, the people who need it the most, a chance to join the economic mainstream of Canada and to end the ever-present cycle of poverty.

What the Attorney General failed to inform the House of in his statement this afternoon was that he establishes no timetable, does not tell us meticulously whom he will be meeting with and what offers are still on the table. I would like to remind the Attorney General, as we did in the past two days during the course of estimates of the Office Responsible for Native Affairs under the auspices of the standing committee on administration of justice, that \$25 does not, in quotes, represent a modern settlement, and offers no vision about what should be done.

The Attorney General has the opportunity, the mandate, and more important the responsibility, to do what is right, to come to the House and give us information on a timetable regarding the settlement.

FUNERAL SERVICES

Mr. Farnan: I want to congratulate the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Wrye). This legislation is valuable.

I suggest it is regrettable that in his remarks the minister did not have the generosity of spirit to mention by name the former member for Welland-Thorold who has championed this cause for many years. Much of what is contained in this recommendation is the substance of what the former member for Welland-Thorold presented in this House on a very consistent basis.

Indeed, the former member for Welland-Thorold introduced a private member's bill that contained all the provisions of this legislation. It took several years before the government had the courage to get up and run with this issue that New Democrats have championed for a long, long time.

I suggest we will be looking at the bills very carefully. We want to stress our utmost dedication to the fact that the bereavement sector must be divided into three distinct subsectors: funeral services, cemetery services and monument services. We are totally opposed to concentration of this bereavement sector into a small group of providers. This legislation will not totally address that and we are determined it be amended to do so.

Mr. Runciman: We as well welcome the minister's comments in respect of the bereavement sector, after at least two or three years of pressure; but in light of so many other crises occurring within this government, obviously it has not been a priority and we can understand that.

We are pleased to see the minister finally accepting a recommendation put forward by the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario on behalf of senior citizens of this province with respect to the ban on telephone and door-to-door solicitation. I think we all appreciate that anyone in a situation of bereavement is very vulnerable, but seniors in our society are even more so. I think all of us can understand and appreciate that.

We have all heard a number of horror stories in this area, and I am sure the minister has, with respect to individuals going into senior citizens homes and nursing homes, approaching seniors at a very vulnerable time in their lives and taking

advantage of the situation. Obviously, we believe most people working within the bereavement industry are honourable citizens and we know there are only a few bad apples in the lot, but we believe the minister has finally taken appropriate action with respect to the concerns of many in Ontario, especially senior citizens.

I do have some reservations with respect to the minister's comments about continuing the prohibition against an operational connection between funeral homes and cemeteries. I guess this is something we are not prepared to pass final judgement on at this point, but an initial indication to us would be that in terms of protection of consumers, the real impact this initiative has—or continuation of this measure has and we can understand where he is coming from with respect to that—is protecting independents from the newer, more aggressive commercial competition. We wonder if over the long term that is indeed in the best interests of consumers of this province.

In any event, we are prepared to work with the minister to make sure this legislation serves the best interests of both the industry and the consumers of the province.

NATIVE LAND CLAIM

Mr. Pope: I would like to comment on the statement of the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) with respect to the Bear Island claim. First, the Attorney General and the government could not have been surprised at the outcome of the Court of Appeal hearing, given the decision of Mr. Justice Steele in 1984 and the evidence presented to the courts at that time.

I believe it is not an appropriate response to merely indicate that there is a reserve. There is some more fundamental obligation to our first citizens than merely standing up in the House and saying, "It is up to the feds and here is some land." There is an obligation to work with the band, to allocate resources to the band, to help them create industries and economic wellbeing for their people.

These were the issues the former Bishop of Moosonee, Jim Watton, and the former Provincial Secretary for Resources Development, René Brunelle, discussed with the Bear Island band in 1983. These are issues we discussed with Mr. Justice Patrick Hartt as mediator in 1984 and they remain important issues for the members of the Bear Island band.

As well, we call upon the government to remove that caution, develop Maple Mountain and allow for the mineral exploration and

development of the area of highest undeveloped mineral potential in this province. They should allow that development to take place so that everyone, our native people and the residents of the Timiskaming district, can benefit from economic development that his government has not allowed to take place for the last four years.

Finally, I say to the Attorney General and to others in this cabinet that this area is not a wilderness area. It has communities located throughout. It is 200 miles south of my home town. It is an area that is in desperate need of some leadership from this government so that the rich resources of this area can be developed for the benefit of everyone: residents of Bear Island, Temagami, Haileybury-New Liskeard-Cobalt, the Tri-town area.

Everyone has a right to expect these resources to be developed for their benefit. It is time this government stopped looking upon this as a wilderness area and started taking some concrete steps to allocate the resources to the residents of the Bear Island band and to the residents of these communities. Let's get on with the job of developing the great mineral and recreational potential of Timiskaming district.

Mr. Speaker: That completes ministerial statements and responses.

1400

BRIEFING ON BILL 208

Mr. Harris: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: I would like to bring to your attention and ask for your consideration of a matter that in my view violates the privileges of my whole caucus, and perhaps of another caucus in this assembly as well.

Yesterday, the chairman of my caucus received a letter from the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara) indicating there would be Bill 208 information sessions. It talked about two special caucus briefings that were scheduled. One was for dinner tonight from six o'clock to eight o'clock, and another was for lunch tomorrow from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m.

It was to be a briefing conducted by the minister, his staff and Ministry of Labour officials, with a brief presentation. "The session will be used to field questions and comments from caucus members." It indicates: "We urge all members to attend this session. If you cannot attend, please feel free to send a staff member."

My caucus chairman brought this letter that he received to the attention of the caucus and asked who would like to attend. When he called to indicate who of our caucus would like to attend,

he was informed by the minister's office: "Whoops, that was not intended for all caucus members of the Legislature. That was intended only for the Liberal members of the Legislature. Indeed, your caucus members have not been invited. A mistake has been made."

Further yesterday, the Minister of Labour came to my chairman of caucus and said, "We have a problem here." My chairman said: "No, we don't. My members are delighted to attend, as they were asked. There is nothing on the invitation that said it was for Liberal members only."

The response from the Minister of Labour was, "We'll send you a briefing package later on but this, paid for by the ministry staff, presented by the civil servants, is only so the Liberal members of this Legislature can be properly briefed on this bill before it comes to the Legislature."

Mr. Speaker, I am going to pass this on to you. I ask you to look into it. It is typical of a number of things we have seen from this government. In my view, the privileges of my entire caucus, and indeed I would suggest of another caucus, have been abridged.

Mr. Mackenzie: On the same point, Mr. Speaker: It would seem to raise some question about the efficiency of the government ministry in terms of sending this letter out, obviously, to some wrong people or people who were not intended to get it. The only comment I have—

Mr. Ballinger: Did you get one?

Mr. Mackenzie: No, we did not, and it does not disturb me that much.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Mackenzie: My concern is not over not receiving it, that bothers me not in the least. My concern is whether it is a propaganda package and whether the information will be as incorrect as it was on Sunday shopping. I suggest to the Liberal members who attend it that they "check against delivery" the material they get.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Just a brief word on this point, Mr. Speaker: I am not exactly sure what the point of privilege is that the member for Nipissing is making, but I want to say to him that if it is a rather convoluted inquiry as to how he can join this caucus I am sure there is a way; and that is he would just have to stand up and indicate that he wants to sit on this side of the floor.

I do want to offer a brief explanation and simply say to the Conservative House leader that there were certain members of this caucus who

asked me to prepare a briefing on Bill 208 and I have done that. I want to tell my friend the member for Nipissing and I want to tell the official opposition that if they are interested and if they make that request, the same briefing, the same briefing materials and the same explanation of the bill will be provided to them as soon as they can arrange a date.

Mrs. Grier: Same menu?

Mrs. Marland: Same menu?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Although our caucus is providing the food for this briefing, I am sure that if there are some leftovers we will provide them for the members.

Mr. Speaker: I listened very carefully to the—
Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: I wish all members would pay as much attention as the Speaker does.

I have listened very carefully to the three members who have spoken. The member for Nipissing rose on a point of privilege. I listened very carefully and I cannot see where it is in any way a point of privilege. The member may wish to continue and try during question period.

ORAL QUESTIONS

NATIVE LAND CLAIM

Mrs. Grier: My question is for the Attorney General and it concerns the Temagami issue. As I pointed out in my response to the minister's statement, in that statement the Attorney General did not give the House any indication what the government's position was with respect to the road extensions in the area. I notice that in a story in the Globe and Mail this morning, when asked about the road issue, the Attorney General pointed out that if the band moves reasonably promptly with respect to an appeal, the government "will not take any steps that may be deemed to be to their prejudice."

The band has now instructed its counsel to ask the Supreme Court of Canada to hear an appeal against the decision. I would like to hear from the Attorney General whether or not he can give this House a commitment that until that appeal is dealt with, the government will not take any steps that may be deemed to be to the prejudice of the band.

Hon. Mr. Scott: As the honourable member knows, leave to appeal is required before any appeal can be considered by the Supreme Court of Canada. That application could be made as early as next week or in the next couple of weeks.

The policy of this government from the beginning, as enunciated by the Minister of

Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio), has been to construct those roads. As the honourable member will recall, the Court of Appeal indicated that certain work could proceed against the date when the appeal was heard. The policy of the government has not changed in that regard.

Mr. Hampton: Given the Court of Appeal decision on the Temagami issue, does the Attorney General not now consider himself to be in a conflict of interest in this situation? As a number of legal experts have pointed out, this decision has been very prejudicial to the interests of Indian people, probably across Ontario.

The Attorney General finished telling myself and my colleague the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Pouliot) yesterday that in his position as the minister responsible for native affairs, it is his job to enhance and promote social and economic development for Ontario's native people. Yet the position he adopts as Attorney General—I would say it is an intransigent position that is going to lead to more court cases like this—is going to whittle away some of the very rights native people insist they have and insist they need.

Mr. Speaker: The question has been asked.

Mr. Hampton: Does he not consider himself now in a conflict of interest—

Mr. Speaker: The question was asked a little while ago.

Hon. Mr. Scott: As a matter of fact, I do not and I do not think the honourable member will find any legal authority in the country who will take that position.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: He has done more for the Indians than anyone since Father Brébeuf.

Mr. Speaker: Final supplementary.

Mr. Hampton: I believe the Treasurer's comment illustrates the sensitivity of the government on this issue. I want to ask the Attorney General—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Final supplementary.

Mr. Hampton: As the Attorney General knows, there are Indian bands across Ontario that insist that aboriginal rights persist, that even though treaties may have been signed and treaty rights may have been observed, aboriginal title and aboriginal rights still exist. That is a bone of contention with many bands across the province.

Is it the government's position then that aboriginal rights do not exist? If that is the government's position, is the minister going to try to litigate every one of these claims across

northern Ontario? If that is the case, what happens to development plans?

1410

Hon. Mr. Scott: As the honourable member knows, it is the position of two courts in Ontario, and indeed of other courts elsewhere, that aboriginal title does not survive a secession by treaty. That is precisely what the court held here. It is not our position, it is what the court has said; that we have a treaty obligation but no aboriginal title obligation.

As the honourable member knows from our discussion in estimates, we have taken a very vigorous line in indicating that we are prepared to negotiate matters of entitlement. I can take my honourable friend's criticism, because he and his party in Ontario, after all, are innocent of government, but I cannot take the same observations from the member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope), who held important portfolios for the 13-year period when this litigation was under way, when the government of Ontario made no offer whatever to settle at all—

Mr. Pope: I did so; you're wrong.

Hon. Mr. Scott: —which received 60 land claims and never responded, over a 40-year period, to even one of them. For these chaps I got no time—

Mr. Sterling: What about Whitedog?

Mr. Pope: That's right, what about Whitedog?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Pope: Point of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Scott: Well, it got you into the room and to your feet.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Pope: What about Whitedog?

Hon. Mr. Scott: I settled it.

Mr. Sterling: BS you did.

Mr. Pope: You did not.

Mr. Sterling: You did not do anything.

NURSING HOMES

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I have a question to the Minister of Health. This would be classified as one of those questions about a Liberal promise that needs to be "checked against delivery." This Liberal promise with regard to the Nursing Homes Act needs to be checked against delivery.

I would like to ask the minister specifically why, 20 months after the Nursing Homes Act and the amendments to the Nursing Homes Act,

which were supposed to be short-term, quick-fix amendments to the Nursing Homes Act, the financial disclosure that would allow the taxpayers of this province, and the residents of nursing homes of this province, to know how their money is being spent taking care of the residents of nursing homes—why has that section of the Nursing Homes Act still not been implemented in Ontario?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: In fact, the member for the official opposition is aware that the Nursing Homes Act was a product of the Legislature, a result of considerable discussion and amendment by opposition parties and is considered by many to be a model piece of legislation in accountability and quality assurance. I know he will have the opportunity, when we deal with the Independent Health Facilities Act in committee, to check the regulations and the statements in the Nursing Homes Act against the proposals of the Independent Health Facilities Act, so that we will be able to ensure that we have the same kind of accountability and quality assurance in an independent health facility as we presently have in a nursing home.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I do not know where the minister is coming from. I asked a question about the Nursing Homes Act, not Bill 147—the Nursing Homes Act. It is in a blue cover and it was given royal assent on July 1, 1987. Not Bill 147—the Nursing Homes Act. Now does the minister understand?

I would like to ask her again, what happened to her promise that she would implement the financial disclosure, so that the taxpayers of this province and the residents of nursing homes would know how hundreds of millions of dollars are being spent taking care of those residents? Why has she deliberately not implemented that section of the Nursing Homes Act?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: In fact, the member should be aware that there are ongoing discussions around regulations whenever they are proposed by the ministry. I can tell him that whenever we are dealing with issues of accountability, which is why I mentioned the Independent Health Facilities Act as an important example of our commitment to accountability, it is important that we make sure that all of the partners in delivery of health care are very clear on what is not only expected but what is acceptable. I can say to him that those regulations are in their final form of draft.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: The section dealing with financial disclosure was put specifically and in detail in the act so that there would not have to be

regulations attached to that section. Obviously, the reason the minister does not want to implement that section of the act is that she cares more about the Ontario Nursing Home Association than she does about the 30,000 residents living in the nursing homes.

I would like to ask the minister another question. In the Nursing Homes Act there was also a requirement, "The minister shall announce, annually, in the Legislature the desired balance between nonprofit and profit-oriented nursing homes."

The minister has not made that statement in the Legislature annually. Why is she breaking her own Nursing Homes Act?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: In fact, I would say to the member of the opposition who raises this question about seniors and those residents in our nursing homes that he knows full well our commitment is both to the quality of care and to the quality of life. We have taken and made enormous strides in ensuring both quality of care and the participation of residents in those homes. The bill of rights has been enacted, and during estimates in this House we had many opportunities to discuss exactly our commitment to and support of the better balance between the profit and the nonprofit sector.

I am proud of the number of beds and the announcements that have been made in this House and in this Legislature and around this province as we have made announcements of additional beds in nursing homes in the nonprofit sector, which has been able to compete and compete well.

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Mr. Runciman: I have a question for the Minister of Financial Institutions. It has to do with a press release issued today by the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board in respect to the board reopening its classification hearings effective this Monday to look at a low-risk driver classification. One can only assume that this is being done in response to the pressure applied by this party and senior citizens across this province in respect to the impact the board's decision is going to have on senior citizens, the best-risk drivers in this province.

I am wondering: Is this press release today, and the fact that the board is going to reopen its hearings, an admission by this government that it made a mistake?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I thank the honourable member for patting himself on the back. He does that rather well from time to time, and from my

point of view it is an indication that he, like the rest of us here, is quite interested in the insurance industry and the issue around which we are talking a great deal these days, the affordability of insurance premiums.

The issue that he raises about the reopening of the hearings has really developed from a very high-profile discussion of the issue as it has applied to people who are deeming themselves to be low-risk drivers. I think it is fair to say that the chairman has indicated that they are moving up one of the hearings that they had intended to have before anyway. They brought it forward so that they could deal with some of the issues which were highlighted during the original hearing process, and I think it is a clear indication that the board has a public sensitivity about the issues of rewarding those drivers who are indeed low-risk drivers, and at the same time also providing the higher cost of bearing insurance premiums to those people who do not perform well.

They had indicated in the original announcements that there would be surcharges for those people with convictions and with claims. This actually moves into the area of looking at those drivers who are good, and I think it is an appropriate time for them to move.

Mr. Runciman: One has to wonder in respect to who made the decision. The final decision obviously has been made by Mr. Kruger, but we have suggested from the outset of the hearings on Bill 2 that the establishment of this board was really going to result in more and more political interference.

I am asking the minister here today: Is he suggesting to the House that he did not, or no official of his ministry or no official of the office of the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) contacted Mr. Kruger and proposed that the board reopen or move up its investigations in respect to the impact this was having on seniors? The minister's hands are clean, is that what he is telling us?

Hon. Mr. Elston: It has been my position right along that I would not interfere with the hearing process. The process is now open on a motion by the chairman. I can tell the honourable gentleman that he, like all of us, would like to see the end—sorry, I cannot say that. The honourable gentleman indicated quite a number of times that he is not in favour of the end of discrimination, he wants to see discrimination continue.

This party wants to see the end of discrimination. This party wants to see the end to people dealing with high premiums on the basis of good records. We want to see, in fact, what is going to take place, a hearing on how good drivers can be

rewarded for their efforts. The type of activities that are being reviewed now by the board will take a look at what is appropriate for low-risk drivers, those people who do not have accidents, those people who do not have convictions. I think that is, in fact, very appropriate.

The board has agreed to open that hearing and has decided to do so. That is a positive step, and I think the honourable gentleman should be quite relieved by that and should also understand this will apply to drivers of all ages.

1420

Mr. Runciman: The minister gets up and makes noble statements about wanting to eliminate discrimination, but the effect is that what he has done through this legislation and the actions of this government is to institute reverse discrimination. We are penalizing the best drivers in society and making the good drivers subsidize the bad drivers. That is the fact.

The government knew this 18 months ago. This is no surprise to anyone and certainly should not be a surprise to the minister. We knew this was going to happen. We knew the impact on seniors and young women drivers and society, yet the government went ahead. Now it is stumbling from crisis to crisis, flying by the seat of its pants and not dealing with it in an effective manner.

Is the minister finally prepared to review this risk classification system that he has put in place which is, indeed, penalizing the best drivers, the safest drivers in society? He should not restrict it to seniors. Let's look at young women drivers and society as well. We are suffering—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I have seen the honourable member performing in this House since 1981, and if he is not running for leadership of the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario I think there is something wrong. I think he ought to take a stab at it. He is doing a very, very good job. He ought to install another bank of telephones in his office so that he can get on with it.

In fact, he just repeated what I said was going to happen. This board hearing was going to deal with the issue of the low-risk driver right across all of the driving records. It does not deal just with seniors or specific groups, but it does deal with exactly the issue I enunciated in my reply to his first supplementary question; that is, if there are low-risk drivers this board will study the manner in which they can be assisted with premiums. There is no secret about that. There is no issue to be dealt with around that.

This gentleman knows that is what the announcement is about, and I can tell the honourable member that we are moving forward in a very comprehensive fashion with establishing the rates in a reasonable fashion for the payment of auto insurance premiums in the province. We are moving forward with implementing the class plan and, in fact, the very thorough nature of the hearing that has already taken place by the board allows us to make positive—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

TOURIST INFORMATION

Mr. McLean: I have a question for the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. I would like him to confirm the following: that all the square brown signs with white question marks indicating tourist information areas are going to be removed, and if they are to be erected again the cost will be \$100 per sign; that the signs on provincial highways indicating tourist regions will be removed; that the travel booths and service centres along Highway 401 will be closed, and that all the rest stops containing small park areas, picnic tables and outdoor washroom facilities will be closed. Will the minister confirm this information?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: This gives me a chance to clarify some information that went out from a certain individual. Quite a bit of it is incorrect. I can tell the member, first of all, that there will be a correction letter going out from both myself and the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Fulton), correcting most of the things that he mentioned concerning the signs, the rest stops and things pertaining to the Ministry of Transportation.

I can also tell the member that we have looked at the information centres and the travel centres that have been located along Highway 401. Those will be phased out by the ministry, but they will be offered to the local tourist groups. We will supply them with the space free of charge, the kiosk which is there and the information to man those booths. They can make the decision whether they wish to man them.

Mr. McLean: Is the minister saying that all the information booths on Highway 401 are going to be leased out to private enterprise? Is the ministry getting out of the tourist business?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: No, we certainly are not. As I mentioned, those booths within the travel centres along Highway 401 will be offered to people—to travel groups. I can tell the member that we will be assisting them in supplying the space: the kiosks and the information to man

them, as I mentioned. I can also tell him that we are placing the emphasis on the entry points into Ontario.

We have recently renovated the travel information centres in Barrie, St. Catharines, Niagara, Fort Erie and Sault Ste. Marie. We built a new one in Windsor. We are looking at another one in Windsor. Under construction we have one on Hill Island coming across the Thousand Islands, and there is also a new one located in Lancaster. Along with building the new ones, renovating and the new ones planned, we have placed quite a bit of emphasis on the 1-800 number, whereby we supply information for people before they start out on their trips.

Mr. McLean: What I am getting from this is that the Minister of Transportation is cutting and flat-lining his budget. He made a statement the other night in the Royal York Hotel, "I am willing to meet anyone, anywhere, anyplace." He never met anybody at the convention.

The minister is the caretaker of tourism in Ontario. He is abdicating his duties. He is not fulfilling the responsibilities that he has. He is backing off on the tourism and the tourist people of this province will not forget him for it. What is he going to do to make sure those signs and those highways are going to be maintained for the tourists of Ontario?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: Again, the member could not have been listening, because I thought I clarified that to him. I can also tell him that there is nobody more supportive to the tourism industry in Ontario than the Minister of Transportation.

Just to add to that point one additional thing which we are doing in co-operation with the Ministry of Transportation: We have also put approximately \$15 million into the northern Ontario tourist information centres enhancement program and the tourist information centres across northern Ontario, which is just in addition to many of the other things we are doing.

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Mr. Kormos: To the Minister of Financial Institutions: After months of hearings, after \$7 million is spent, the government's Ontario Automobile Insurance Board now decides that it is going to consider discounts for low-risk drivers. If it had discussed and considered affordable insurance rates, it would not have to consider discounts now. It is going to move the discussion of bonus-malus forward. There is a lot of bonus-malus in the system right now, but it is all malus and no bonus.

Is it not remarkable that the announcement is made today, just one day before the session ends? When there has been massive public pressure about the government's failure to deliver on its promise to reduce auto insurance rates, is this really not just a frantic effort on the part of the government to hide the broken promise? Is this not just a scam—just smoke and mirrors?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The honourable gentleman, as is his way, exaggerates the situation. He knows very well that the people have indicated in the press release that they wish to take a look at the advantages that could be offered to low-risk drivers. That is what they are doing; they have announced that they are going to do it; they are having the hearings. As always, the honourable gentleman is able to make his presentations in front of the board.

I can see nothing inappropriate about the board's moving to move up the time in which it wishes to deal with the issue of bonus on the bonus-malus-type system.

Mr. Kormos: Let's take a look at who is going to be considered a low-risk driver. We are talking about people who drive less than 8,000 kilometres a year; where driving after dark does not constitute more than 15 per cent of total vehicle use; when driving on highways with four lanes or more is not more than 15 per cent of total vehicle use; where the vehicle rate group is less than 40.

That is for a big discount of 5 to 10 per cent from grossly inflated and unaffordable rates. This is a real con job.

1430

Mr. Speaker: The question?

Mr. Kormos: It is bait and switch. Who in Toronto is going to be eligible? Who in northern Ontario is going to be eligible? Just how many drivers will be low-risk drivers—10 or 15 right across the whole province?

Mr. Speaker: Order. That is three questions.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Again, the honourable gentleman's exaggeration is just inappropriate. I do not know where the guy comes from, but he should be prepared to go through the hearings and he should be prepared to put the full story in front of the people of Ontario.

The member says that these are the items which will be considered. He is right; they will be considered by the board. That does not mean that they are mandated by the board. The board will have the hearing after hearing all of the material that comes in front of it. It will make decisions

with respect to what the characteristics of the low-risk driver will be.

The member should know that this board has acted in a very reasonable and thorough fashion in the past and will continue to do so. This person should be willing to tell the people of Ontario that there will be a fairness in the hearing process unlike what they have ever seen before.

This board process has provided for us information about the insurance industry that allows us to be wise and smart shoppers for insurance. It allows us to measure the types of things that are considered to be part of the rate structure. It allows us to understand what can be done to address those people who are low-risk.

Those are some suggestions that the member has just read off. It does not mean it is a total enunciation of all the characteristics. It does not mean that they will all be put in—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

RACE RELATIONS

Mrs. Marland: My question is for the Minister of Citizenship. I read in the newspapers today with great concern some of the remarks of the Premier (Mr. Peterson) last night. In fact, it was quite interesting that the Premier had to go to a Liberal fund-raising event to tell the country that his policies had been a failure and that, as the Premier has said, he sees storm clouds that challenge the very values of Confederation.

One of the quotations says, "Peterson lashed out at those who are trying to divide Torontonians, Ontarians and Canadians through racial, linguistic and cultural intolerance."

[Applause]

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mrs. Marland: "The Premier said he sees 'majorities in various jurisdictions less comfortable with the minorities.'"

Mr. Speaker: The question?

Mrs. Marland: I am sorry if the minister cannot hear the question because of the lack of consideration by his own members. The question is, could the minister tell this House who those people are to whom the Premier referred in his speech last night?

Hon. Mr. Phillips: I could not hear the first part of the question. Might I have it again?

Mrs. Marland: If I may repeat it as part of my first question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Agreed.

Mrs. Marland: I quote:

"Peterson lashed out at those who are trying to divide Torontonians, Ontarians and Canadians through racial, linguistic and cultural intolerance."

"The Premier said he sees 'majorities in various jurisdictions less comfortable with the minorities.'"

Could the minister tell the House who those people are and what is meant by the words "in various jurisdictions"?

Hon. Mr. Phillips: I think last night the Premier put forward a concern that many of us have. I think we do see some stresses and some strains in society, whether it be in terms of stresses and strains between our police community and many of the minority communities, stresses and strains in some of our universities or stresses and strains in terms of the relationship between our minority communities and employment.

In regard to what we are doing about it, which I think is important, there is not one single minister in this government who is not responding to it in a very important way, whether it be the Minister of Education (Mr. Ward) with race relations policies in our schools, or the Solicitor General (Mrs. Smith). I do not think anyone has been more responsive to ensuring that we have change in our police community than the Solicitor General.

What the Premier was saying last night is a message of concern, I think, to all of us. There are stresses and strains out there that we must respond to. What we are doing, as a government, is responding to that in every single ministry. That is what the Premier was talking about, whether it be the communities in our universities where we see, unfortunately, Professor Rushton espousing theories that none of us supports or believes in. Those are the stresses and strains the Premier was talking about, and the responses we are talking about are occurring in every single ministry in this government.

Mrs. Marland: We in our caucus certainly understand that when we are faced, as we can be, with racial tensions and specific race-related problems, there are those in the community who strive for peaceful, positive discussion in hopes of coming to constructive solutions. Then there are those who try to use, to their political benefit, the emotions of those groups in the community in what I view as a destructive—rather than a constructive—verbal degradation of our society as a whole.

Obviously the minister chose to use, in reply to my first question, a platform to repeat what was said last night. That was not my question at all. In

reference to last night's comments and his own comments in the House today, would the minister tell us at whom the Premier directed his comments last night?

Hon. Mr. Phillips: Again, I go back. The police chiefs of Ontario said that it is important for our police organizations to change to reflect the diversity. That was not the Premier saying that; that was the police chiefs. So we responded in that area. The communities say that we must respond to the diversity in terms of employment. It was the communities that said that, and we have responded to that.

As a matter of fact, I am very pleased that we now in our government have, as a result of changes in the past year, three deputy ministers, one from the native community and two from, quote, the visible community, because the Premier wants to ensure that we take advantage of all the talent in this province. That is a change he has made. The Premier is someone who has, from the outset, said that we as a government must first respond to that diversity.

The member asked who in the community has said there is a need for change. The police chiefs of the province have said that, and we responded to that. The communities have said that we must respond to change in terms of our employment practices, and the Premier has responded to that. The communities have said we must respond in the race relations area and we have responded to that.

Mrs. Marland: But who is it that is causing the divisiveness and the intolerance?

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Order. New question?

Mrs. Marland: It's really disappointing when we don't get to ask very many questions and then you don't answer.

Mr. Speaker: You are just wasting the time again. Order.

HOME RENOVATIONS

Mr. Fleet: I am pleased to have an opportunity to put a question to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. In recent months, my community office has received numerous calls with complaints and comments about home renovations and additions. The concerns raised by my constituents relate to improper contract disclosure, fees that vary drastically from estimates, poor quality of workmanship and failures to complete the job on time. Aside from using the small claims court, what help or advice is available to home owners through his ministry?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: There is no doubt there have been and continue to be a number of complaints which consumers have over home renovations and improvements. In the past we have received, each and every year, several hundred complaints from consumers on the kinds of issues that my friend has referred to. I can advise the member that the consumer services bureau is empowered to investigate such complaints and take appropriate action if there have been violations of the Business Practices Act or the Consumer Protection Act.

Until now, and at this point as the member will know, we do not have specific legislation for the home renovation industry. It is something we have been looking at, which has been addressed and, frankly, which is being examined by a number of other jurisdictions which I think are equally concerned about the area of consumer protection.

1440

Mr. Fleet: In light of the significant number of complaints across the province and a pattern of increased problems in the field of home renovations, would the minister then consider extending the provisions of the Ontario New Home Warranties Plan Act to include renovations and additions to existing residential properties?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: That issue has been raised on a number of occasions, I suppose as one option, although I would say to the honourable member that I am not sure it is the appropriate option. It is the Ontario New Home Warranties Plan Act, and we are registering new homes and we are registering the builders of new homes. It seems to me that in terms of home improvements and renovations, we are looking at an entirely different area.

As I indicated to the honourable member, over the longer term we are looking to see whether we can develop legislation in the home renovation area with home improvements, whether on a wide-ranging basis or more of a pilot basis for larger home renovations at the outset. In the shorter term, there is a new organization which has been set up through the Ontario Home Builders' Association called the Ontario Renovators Council. We have been holding some discussions with them in an effort to get a handle on the industry and working with them to deal with some of the problems that consumers have been bringing to the member's attention and to mine.

PERINATAL CARE

Mr. Reville: Mr. Speaker, I wanted to wish you a happy St. David's Day.

However, I do have a question for the Minister of Health. There are instructions that go with this question because I am in a better mood today than I was yesterday. I have always been slow to chide and quick to bless.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Say that again.

Mr. Reville: Slow to chide and quick to bless. Okay, we have got that out of the way. The instruction is, would she take out the card on cardiovascular surgery and also the card on perinatal and neonatal care. That is where my questions are going.

Mr. Speaker: Is that your question?

Interjection.

Mr. Reville: I am a helpful person. It says right here that—

Hon. Mr. Scott: You just concentrate on the question.

Mr. Reville: History seems to have a way of repeating itself under this government. Just last year at about this time, we suffered an epidemic of flying moms and tots and here we see again, "Metro Mom Flies to Kingston to Find Bed."

Mr. Speaker: Your question?

Mr. Reville: Mr. Speaker, I have not warmed up yet.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps I will let someone else warm up.

Mr. Reville: Will the minister tell us whether she is satisfied with our system of perinatal and neonatal care in the province, or is this somewhat like the cardiovascular care system about which she said there was nothing wrong for about a year and a half before we had a report saying that there was lots wrong?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The member from the opposition will acknowledge, I believe, if he wants to be factual and honest to this Legislature, that Ontario is a world leader in both perinatal and neonatal care.

We have a system in this province. What we want is for women who need this highly specialized care to be able to receive it as quickly as possible in a centre where it is offered in a highly specialized area that provides quality care. That is why we have the kind of system that will see that they get the care they need, hopefully as close to home as possible.

We know that the system is sometimes stressed in one area and underutilized in another. That is why we established a central registry system to get people the care that they need as close to home as possible and as quickly as possible.

Mr. Reville: I am worried. If this is how a world leader behaves, one worries about those who are struggling to catch up.

Mike Reiter, who is related to the new mom by marriage said: "Somebody screwed up as far as I am concerned. I come home from work, my wife is on the phone in tears, Danielle is in tears." That is the mother who was about to deliver the twins, she thought in Toronto, but in Kingston. "I cannot accept it. I want to know how this could possibly happen in 1989." Is it a problem, as we saw in cardiovascular care, of co-ordination or what?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I want to assure the member opposite that in fact the capacity of our perinatal system meets the objectives of the Advisory Committee on Reproductive Care. It is extremely important that women who are designated high-risk communicate with their physicians so that they in fact understand how this system works. When there is a peak in one of our centres, they will be taken to the closest available bed where there is that kind of highly specialized care.

I know what an important time that is for women, having had children myself. I can tell him that for high-risk pregnancies it is important that they get to the highly specialized care in one of our 10 designated centres.

I am pleased to hear that the result is that healthy twins have been born. I want to wish the family members well and say to them that in Ontario they can count on the fact that we will get them to the care they need as quickly as possible and as close to home as possible.

APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING

Mrs. Cunningham: My question is to the Minister of Skills Development (Mr. Curling). In his absence, I will direct my question to the Deputy Premier.

In a speech delivered in the Legislature on October 17, 1988, the Minister of Skills Development stated: "A strong apprenticeship system is vital to the Ontario economy as we move into the 1990s and beyond. We face rapid technological change, skills shortages and tough international competition. Apprenticeship is an absolute necessity in meeting this challenge."

Approximately 72 skilled trades are governed by regulations under the Ministry of Skills Development and the Minister of Skills Development is aware that he has the power—

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mrs. Cunningham: —to change these regulations and specifically the apprenticeship ratios.

In how many skilled trades have the ratios of apprentices to journeymen changed under this government's stewardship?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Where are the feds in this?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I appreciate the interjection of the Minister of the Environment, because it is exactly what I was going to bring to the honourable member's attention. She is aware that the basic funding for this sort of training has over the years essentially been met by the Treasury of the government of Canada, but there has been a substantial withdrawal over the last two years and this concerns us very much.

As a matter of fact, we have had to inject emergency funding into the apprenticeship program so that many young people, particularly those who had already been accepted and were under way with their apprenticeship, would not be simply left out in the street totally bereft and abandoned by the withdrawal of this federal support.

Mrs. Cunningham: In response, the amount of money the Deputy Premier is talking about was \$5 million out of over \$70 million. It was the inability of this government to negotiate a proper contract with the federal government that caused that oversight. They did not sign the agreement. They were stuck with the contract they had for last year and therefore the government reneged. That is the reason.

Mr. Speaker: Are you asking if the Deputy Premier agrees?

Mrs. Cunningham: No, I am not. That is not the question.

Mr. Speaker: Well, place your supplementary.

Mrs. Cunningham: I was clarifying the mistake the Deputy Premier made in his response.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Would the member for London North place a supplementary?

Mrs. Cunningham: It is the responsibility of this government to discuss ratios. If the apprenticeship ratios remain unchanged, young people cannot get into these programs. When will the Minister of Skills Development live up to his words and make the necessary changes to apprenticeship ratios—that is the question—to better reflect the training needs of this great province of Ontario?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I think the honourable member would know that we have injected additional moneys just this year into the apprenticeship program to make up for the funds that were not allocated by the government of Canada. The honourable member took time in her question, as she said, to clarify what my comment was, and somehow or other she blamed our government for not being able to force the government of Canada to give us the money that it has given us in the past.

That is the same sort of explanation the member for Carleton (Mr. Sterling) used earlier when he blamed us for the government of Canada's allocating the national space agency money to the province of Quebec. I am glad they got it, but it would have been nice if we had got it.

It is the same sort of argument that the honourable member would have made when she blamed me for the fact that Michael Wilson has drawn back \$1 billion that we should have in this province for health care and post-secondary education.

I do not understand the philosophy of the honourable member where she simply blames the victim, and the victim is the taxpayer of Ontario.

DAGMAR SKI RESORT

Mrs. Stoner: My question is to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. Two incidents involving Dagmar Ski Resort have been brought to my attention by constituents.

In one case, an 11-year-old girl was injured after falling from a chair-lift at Dagmar while on a school outing in January. Reports indicate that the safety bar on the chair would not come down.

In the second incident, a seven-and-a-half-year-old boy had to be held by another youth to keep from falling 40 or 50 feet to the ground from a chair-lift. Apparently he was not loaded properly on the four-seat lift and began to slip out of the chair. When the lift neared the end of the run, the boy fell 15 feet. Thankfully, he was not seriously injured, nor was the girl in the first incident.

Those incidents have raised concerns among parents and educators about safety at Dagmar. What action is the ministry taking to investigate these incidents?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I thank the honourable member for giving me notice of these specific incidents. I want to report to her and to the House that as a result of the incidents, officials of the elevating devices branch of the ministry and an inspector did go to the Dagmar Ski Resort and inspected the facility and the ski lifts.

I can tell the honourable member that all the safety bars were found to be functional and in proper working order. Indeed, the inspector monitored for a period of time the workings of the operators and found that all of their operations were being handled in accordance with the kind of safety we would want. Indeed, on a couple of occasions where the safety bars had not come down properly, the ride was stopped before it really got moving and it was put properly into place.

I would want the House to know that while the ski lifts are generally handled in accordance with the Canadian Standards Association safety code, that code does not require these bars. In Ontario we have established specific regulations to require such bars. I can say to the honourable member that in that sense we provide safer ski lifts in this province than in many other jurisdictions in Canada, and certainly in the United States.

Mrs. Stoner: My supplementary is expressing the concerns of the parents, the operators, the ski patrol and the students that the educational ski program at Dagmar can continue. What can be done by the ministry to ensure that similar incidents do not occur in the future?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: We have had a chance to discuss this matter with the executive of the Ontario Ski Resorts Association. I gather they were in touch with school officials and school board insurance officials to discuss this matter even before we got in touch with them.

Certainly, the honourable member expresses an important concern about ensuring the greatest possible safety on these ski lifts. Both of those parties, and our ministry is certainly willing to work with them, have begun to explore opportunities that might be available within our school system for a degree of public education for the students now, an education which will serve them well in the future.

PENSION BENEFITS

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I have a question for the Minister of Financial Institutions. The minister will know that for the entire time that his party has been in power, the issue of indexation of pensions has been on the public agenda and people have been waiting for the government to deliver on its promise to index pensions. The minister, on December 14, made a curious statement and promised that at some point draft legislation would be introduced for discussion.

I would simply like to ask the minister where is his draft legislation, if he will not bring in legislation for debate in the Legislature.

Hon. Mr. Elston: We are very close to bringing that draft legislation forward.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I guess what I would like to ask the minister is, why is it that it takes this government so many months, so many years, to deliver on a promise to index pensions for retirees in this province, when it takes absolutely no time at all for his government to bring in higher insurance rates for retirees across this province?

Hon. Mr. Elston: The honourable gentleman is being outrageous. In this business, if we consult widely, do the things we are supposed to do and get the views of the public, the opposition says we are taking much too long. If we bring things in quickly, they say we are not consulting and we are not talking to the people. We cannot win with the members opposite, because they just will not accept what is good process.

We have taken on our plate the issue of indexing pensions and we are committed to following through on that. We are bringing the draft material forward in very short order, but I can tell the honourable gentleman that it is more than just indexing. There are several issues which we will be dealing with over the course of the next few months, as we approach the issue of pensions generally.

It seems to me that the honourable gentleman would like to know that we are committed to moving on pensions. In fact, he will see very soon indeed that we are moving on pensions. I thank him for the very timely nature of his question, bearing in mind that the fellow himself may be thinking about retirement because of the activities of the local New Democratic Party member of municipal government in Windsor. I am told Mr. Burr may be after his seat and that may be of interest to him. I can tell the honourable gentleman that the Legislative Assembly's pension is—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

NURSING SERVICES

Mr. Eves: I have a question for the Minister of Health. The Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario, in its report last fall, presented the minister with a list of recommendations that it felt needed to be addressed in order to help solve the nursing shortage, both in the long term and the short term. In the 10 months since she has admitted that there was a nursing shortage, she has implemented only one of the recommendations that at least four different reports have presented to her.

One of the RNAO recommendations dealt with the formation of a health manpower planning committee. I will quote from the RNAO report.

"The RNAO believes that there simply has to be better co-ordination between the Ministry of Health planners, the health professions concerned, the employers of health professions and the Ministry of Colleges and Universities. We believe that what is required is an independent institute for co-ordinated health manpower planning"—

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. Eves:—"that will bring these diverse groups to systematically project labour requirements, based on impartial data"—

Mr. Speaker: And the question?

Mr. Eves:—"collected by professional market economists."

My question is, very simply, does she agree with this recommendation from the RNAO?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I am pleased to say to the Health critic from the third party that, in fact, we are working co-operatively not only with the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario but with the Ontario Nurses' Association, the Hospital Council of Metropolitan Toronto and the Ontario Hospital Association, as we discuss the many issues affecting nursing in this province.

The one thing everyone acknowledges is that this situation is not new as of today. In fact, I would say to him that even yesterday Vickie Kaminski made this statement: "The nursing shortage has not come about overnight. It has been upon us and slowly evolving and it is not going to be solved overnight."

As a matter of fact, the RNAO representative met with myself and the Premier (Mr. Peterson) to discuss many of the recommendations in the report, and, as I have said to the member before, the conclusion is that it is a partnership; we must all come together to solve problems collectively. That is the approach we are taking. I believe that in the short, medium and longer term that will prove to be successful.

1500

Mr. Eves: The conclusion is that the minister has implemented one out of 14 recommendations that the RNAO made. I am asking her to implement another one, one that costs barely any money at all, if that is the big hangup over there, she does not want to spend any money to solve some of the problems in health care.

What I am asking her to do is set up an independent institute for manpower planning.

This is one of the specific recommendations. They are very specific that it should be independent. They say in their report that they feel the government—which is responsible, by the way, to plan and implement manpower policy—has been ineffective and inadequate.

Is the minister going to agree to set up this institute, independent of the Ministry of Health, with representation from her ministry on it, nonpolitical, nonpartisan, to recommend to her what should be done? Then will she do something about it?

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. The question has been asked.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I have spoken at length in this House on numerous occasions about the importance of overall health manpower planning, not only for nurses but also for physicians and all the other allied health professionals.

I can say to the member that for the first time in the history of this province, the Ministry of Health is being proactive in doing appropriate manpower planning. We are taking advice from all of our partners in health care. If he has any good suggestions for a change, I would be pleased to hear from him.

MINERAL EXPLORATION

Mr. Campbell: My question is for the Minister of Mines. We are all aware of how vital mining is, not only to Ontario's economy but also to the economy of the whole of Canada. This crucial sector of our economy can be sustained only through a constant process of exploration for new deposits. Unfortunately, because of the short-sighted policy of the federal government with respect to flow-through shares, exploration activity in Ontario has been severely curtailed.

Can the minister tell us what programs are being developed to help our prospectors in their efforts to expand our known mineral reserves?

Hon. Mr. Conway: I thank the honourable member for his question. As he knows, the federal government, under the direction of the Minister of Finance for Canada, announced some time ago that it was not going to continue with the so-called MEDA, the mineral exploration depletion allowance. That has gone by the board as a result of federal Tory tax reform. That has had a very, very worrisome effect on the mining community.

The federal Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, almost a year ago, committed the government of Canada to a new program, the so-called CEIP, the Canadian exploration incentive program. That was to have been in place as

of January 1, 1989. Regrettably, the regulations are not yet in place, and that is causing the industry, labour, and certainly those at the provincial government levels across the country a great deal of concern. I have written to the new Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and indicated our desire to see that program in its final design so that we can decide what actions we are going to take in the future.

Mr. Campbell: I understand the difficulties faced by the minister. The federal CEIP program is a virtual carbon copy of our now-suspended Ontario mineral exploration program. Can the minister advise this House what is causing the delay in restructuring OMEP so that it may be of benefit to our mineral exploration industry in the upcoming session?

Hon. Mr. Conway: The member is correct that, at first look last spring, the new federal program looked very much like a duplication of the Ontario mineral exploration program, which our government suspended last July to see what the final federal initiative was going to be like. We do still assume that it is going to be very much a duplication of OMEP.

We have indicated that we are working with the prospectors and developers and others in the mining community to find ways and means of providing additional stimuli, particularly to the junior mining companies and the solo and unincorporated prospectors who continue to generate a great deal of the exploration and development in this critical sector of the Ontario economy.

I hope we will be able to conclude those discussions very shortly after the federal government announces its final regulations. Subject to, of course, cabinet approval, I will be anxious to inform my colleague and other members of the assembly of any future developments.

EMPLOYMENT ADJUSTMENT

Mr. Allen: I have a question of the Minister of Labour. The minister will know that in 1987-88, 1,300 jobs were lost at the Firestone plant. He may not be so familiar with the fact that 21 other plant closures took place in exactly the same space of time, losing more jobs than in the Firestone instance. Yet the Firestone workers secured a major and significant labour adjustment package which was largely denied to most of the other workers.

I presume the minister is not exactly in favour of this kind of two-class labour adjustment. Would the minister be prepared to sit down with a community group that has been working for a

year in Hamilton, looking at how to provide for all the workers the kind of package that has happened for the Firestone workers and to find some way of providing some resources to make a community-based labour adjustment program happen for those workers in Hamilton?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: In the brief few seconds that are left in question period, I want to assure my friend the member for Hamilton West that I would be only too glad to sit down with that community group and discuss with its members proposals that they have.

I should mention to members of the House that I do not think the layoffs and the terminations in Firestone and the reaction of the community represent so much a two-tiered system as a really true, shining example of how labour adjustment can work, not only in a community like Hamilton but, hopefully, in any community around the province.

If there is some expertise that we can derive from that process, unions and management and government at all three levels working together to help the process of adjustment, I would be only too glad to hear about it, to analyse it and to see how that experience can be applied in other areas of this province, as well as in Hamilton, to the benefit of the working people of this province who find themselves in a position, potentially, of not having the same job and having to look for new work.

Mr. Speaker: That completes the allotted time for oral questions and responses.

Mr. Pope: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Is this on a point of privilege or order?

Mr. Pope: Either one, Mr. Speaker. I know you did not want to recognize me during question period, and I can understand that. The Attorney General (Mr. Scott) made reference to me in his comments during question period. I can only assume that he has joined others in cabinet whose sense of revisionism has affected their minds. He forgot the Whitedog agreement.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I do not feel that is a point of order or a point of privilege. If the member wishes to correct someone else's record, that is impossible.

PETITIONS

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Mr. Mackenzie: "To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the Liberal members of the standing committee on resources development have voted to oppose an opposition motion to hear all deputations who want to appear before the committee on Bill 162;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly to instruct the standing committee on resources development to reschedule its public hearings on Bill 162 in order to give all deputations who wish to make presentations about the proposed changes to the workers' compensation system an opportunity to appear before the committee and express their views."

It is signed by nine workers in the city of Toronto and I have affixed my signature.

EXTENDED CARE

Mr. Brandt: I have a petition for the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario signed by 87 persons in the riding represented by the member for Chatham-Kent (Mr. Bossy), a government member, which reads, in part, as follows:

"I believe that all residents of extended care facilities, whether it be a nursing home or a municipal home for the aged, are entitled to equal care and services according to the specific care requirements of each individual.

"Nursing home residents should benefit from the same amount of funding and kinds of services as residents of municipal homes for the aged.

"I urge the Ontario government to reform the extended care system so that it is uniform, fair and equitable with regard to funding and regulation, and so that seniors in all extended care facilities receive the quality of care they deserve."

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Mrs. Grier: I have a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the Liberal members of the standing committee on resources development have voted to oppose an opposition motion to hear all deputations who want to appear before the committee on Bill 162;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly to instruct the standing committee on resources development to reschedule its public hearings on Bill 162 in order to give all deputations who wish to make presentations about the proposed changes to the workers' compensation system an opportunity to appear before the committee and express their views."

1510

EXTENDED CARE

Mr. Pope: I have three petitions, all with the same wording, so I will read just one. The first petition is signed by 41 persons in the riding of Cochrane South. The second is signed by 134 persons in the riding represented by the member for Kenora (Mr. Micalash), a Liberal government member. The third is signed by 342 persons in the riding represented by the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Fontaine), a Liberal government member. They all read the same.

"I believe that all residents of extended care facilities, whether it be a nursing home or a municipal home for the aged, are entitled to equal care and services, according to the specific care requirements of each individual.

"Nursing home residents should benefit from the same amount of funding and kinds of services as residents of municipal homes for the aged.

"I urge the Ontario government to reform the extended care system so that it is uniform, fair, and equitable, with regard to funding and regulation and so that seniors in all extended care facilities receive the quality of care that they deserve."

I have signed all three petitions and I support this petition.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Mr. Philip: I have a petition addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas the Liberal members of the standing committee on resources development have voted to oppose an opposition motion to hear all deputations who want to appear before the committee on Bill 162;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly to instruct the standing committee on resources development to reschedule its public hearings on Bill 162 in order to give all deputations who wish to make presentations about the proposed changes to the workers' compensation system an opportunity to appear before the committee and express their views."

It is signed by a number of people, including some people from Campbellford, Ontario, which is eight miles south of Havelock. It is a fine town indeed. I have signed my name.

EXTENDED CARE

Mrs. Marland: I have a petition for the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, signed by 55 persons in the riding

represented by the member for Etobicoke West (Mrs. LeBourdais), a government member. It reads in part as follows:

"I believe that all residents of extended care facilities, whether it be a nursing home or a municipal home for the aged, are entitled to equal care and services, according to the specific care requirements of each individual.

"Nursing home residents should benefit from the same amount of funding and kinds of services as residents of municipal homes for the aged.

"I urge the Ontario government to reform the extended care system so that it is uniform, fair, and equitable, with regard to funding and regulation and so that seniors in all extended care facilities receive the quality of care that they deserve."

I have a second one, which I will not read, that is the same as the first. It has 35 signatures on it.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Miss Martel: I have a petition that reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, petition the government of Ontario to reform the workers' compensation system in Ontario so that people injured at work get decent pensions, rehabilitation and jobs when they are able."

This has been signed by 1,400 people in Ontario and I agree with them entirely.

EXTENDED CARE

Mr. Eves: I have three petitions. I will read only one. They are all the same. I have a petition for the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, signed by 153 persons from my riding, which reads in part as follows:

"I believe that all residents of extended care facilities, whether it be a nursing home or a municipal home for the aged, are entitled to equal care and services, according to the specific care requirements of each individual.

"Nursing home residents should benefit from the same amount of funding and kinds of services as residents of municipal homes for the aged.

"I urge the Ontario government to reform the extended care system so that it is uniform, fair, and equitable, with regard to funding and regulation and so that seniors in all extended care facilities receive the quality of care that they deserve."

The other two petitions are of identical form. They are from the riding of Muskoka-Georgian Bay and the riding of Port Arthur, both

represented by members of the government side. The one from Muskoka-Georgian Bay is signed by 55 residents. The one from Port Arthur is signed by 72 persons. I have affixed my signature to all three.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Mr. Farnan: I have a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the Liberal members of the standing committee on resources development have voted to oppose an opposition motion to hear all deputations who want to appear before the committee on Bill 162;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly to instruct the standing committee on resources development to reschedule its public hearings on Bill 162 in order to give all deputations who wish to make presentations about the proposed changes to the workers' compensation system an opportunity to appear before the committee and express their views."

The petition is signed by 10 citizens, some of whom come from the riding of Guelph, a government-held riding. I have attached my name to the petition.

EXTENDED CARE

Mr. McLean: I have two petitions and I will only read one. One is from Bestview Health Care Centre in Orillia and the other is from Birchmere Residential Hotel.

I have a petition for the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, signed by 19 persons from my riding, which reads as follows. The other one is signed by 25 persons.

"I believe that all residents of extended care facilities, whether it be a nursing home or a municipal home for the aged, are entitled to equal care and services according to the specific care requirements of each individual.

"Nursing home residents should benefit from the same amount of funding and kinds of services as residents of municipal homes for the aged.

"I urge the Ontario government to reform the extended care system so that it is uniform, fair, and equitable, with regard to funding and regulation and so that seniors in all extended care facilities receive the quality of care that they deserve."

I have signed both of them.

MINIMUM WAGE

Mr. Morin-Strom: I have two petitions, one of which has been signed by over 100 residents of the city of London. I will read excerpts from it:

"We, the undersigned citizens of London, Ontario, and the surrounding area, forward this petition to the provincial government of Ontario.

"This petition is a demand for an increase in the minimum wage to \$6 per hour. By resolving this most important issue, there will be a significant decrease in the number of welfare and unemployment insurance recipients. At this time, some people on welfare and unemployment insurance receive more money than people who work for minimum wage.

"We ask you, as government officials, how you could survive on \$4.55 an hour. If it is impossible for you, as government officials, to afford the necessities of life on such a low income, then again do not expect people who help pay your wages to do so."

I have signed this petition and present it for the government's consideration. I hope the government will act upon it.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Mr. Morin-Strom: I have a second petition, signed by 10 residents of various communities across Ontario. It reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the Liberal members of the standing committee on resources development have voted to oppose an opposition motion to hear all deputations who want to appear before the committee on Bill 162;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly to instruct the standing committee on resources development to reschedule its public hearings on Bill 162 in order to give all deputations who wish to make presentations about the proposed changes to the workers' compensation system an opportunity to appear before the committee and express their views."

I heartily endorse this petition as well as the previous one and have signed my name to it.

EXTENDED CARE

Mrs. Cunningham: I have a petition for the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, signed by 433 persons from my riding. To save time, I also have one signed by 278 persons in the riding represented by the member for Perth (Mr. Edighoffer) and one signed by 67 persons in the riding represented by the member for Dufferin-Peel (Mrs. Wilson). I will read them all together since they say the same thing.

"I believe that all residents of extended care facilities, whether it be a nursing home or a

municipal home for the aged, are entitled to equal care and services according to the specific care requirements of each individual.

"Nursing home residents should benefit from the same amount of funding and kinds of services as residents of municipal homes for the aged.

"I urge the Ontario government to reform the extended care system so that it is uniform, fair, and equitable, with regard to funding and regulation and so that seniors in all extended care facilities receive the quality of care that they deserve."

I have signed my name to all three of these petitions and will hand them over to the Legislative Assembly.

1520

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Mr. Charlton: I have a petition that is addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas the Liberal members of the standing committee on resources development have voted to oppose an opposition motion to hear all deputations who want to appear before the committee on Bill 162;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly to instruct the standing committee on resources development to reschedule its public hearings on Bill 162 in order to give all deputations who wish to make presentations about the proposed changes to the workers' compensation system an opportunity to appear before the committee and express their views."

The petition is signed by 10 residents of Branchton, Guelph, Cambridge and Fergus. I have affixed my signature as well and support their petition.

EXTENDED CARE

Mr. Pollock: I have here three petitions. One was signed by 33 people from the riding of Victoria-Haliburton, another by 80 people from the riding of Prince Edward-Lennox and the third one is signed by 46 persons from the riding of Frontenac-Addington, represented by a government member.

Mr. Villeneuve: All government members.

Mr. Pollock: Yes. I have a petition for the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario signed by 46 persons from the riding of the Frontenac-Addington, which is represented by a government member. It reads in part as follows:

"We believe that all residents of extended care facilities, whether it be a nursing home or a municipal home for the aged, are entitled to equal care and services according to the specific care requirements of each individual.

"Nursing home residents should benefit from the same amount of funding and kinds of services as residents of municipal homes for the aged.

"We urge the Ontario government to reform the extended care system so that it is uniform, fair, and equitable, with regard to funding and regulation and so that seniors in all extended care facilities receive the quality of care that they so richly deserve."

I have signed these three petitions.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Mr. D. S. Cooke: "To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the Liberal members of the standing committee on resources development have voted to oppose an opposition motion to hear all deputations who want to appear before the committee on Bill 162;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly to instruct the standing committee on resources development to reschedule its public hearings on Bill 162 in order to give all deputations who wish to make presentations about the proposed changes to the workers' compensation system an opportunity to appear before the committee and express their views."

EXTENDED CARE

Mr. Villeneuve: I too have a petition for the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, signed by 234 persons in the riding represented by the member for Prescott and Russell (Mr. Poirier), a Liberal government member. It reads in part as follows:

"We believe that all residents of extended care facilities, whether it be a nursing home or a municipal home for the aged, are entitled to equal care and services according to the specific care requirements of each individual.

"Nursing home residents should benefit from the same amount of funding and kinds of services as residents of municipal homes for the aged.

"We urge the Ontario government to reform the extended care system so that it is uniform, fair and equitable, with regard to funding and regulation and so that seniors in all extended care facilities receive the quality of care that they deserve."

I have signed this petition and present it to the Legislative Assembly.

BIRTH OF RESEARCHER'S CHILD

Mr. Philip: I have a petition to the Lieutenant Governor and members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"We beg leave to petition the Legislature as follows:

"All members of the Legislature, particularly those who are members of the standing committee on public accounts, take joy in the announcement that Wendy MacDonald, researcher for the public accounts committee, gave birth this morning to a daughter, 7 pounds, 15 ounces, and we look forward to her return to the public accounts committee."

I have signed it and I believe the member for Durham-York (Mr. Ballinger) is about to sign it.

REPORTS BY COMMITTEES

STANDING COMMITTEE ON REGULATIONS AND PRIVATE BILLS

Mr. Furlong from the standing committee on regulations and private bills presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bill as amended:

Bill Pr78, An Act respecting the County of Lanark.

Motion agreed to.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Mr. Mahoney, on behalf of Mr. Callahan, from the standing committee on administration of justice reported the following resolution:

That supply in the following amount and to defray the expenses of the Office responsible for Native Affairs be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1989:

Ontario native affairs directorate program, \$4,884,100.

MOTION

TRANSFERRAL OF BILL 124

Hon. Mr. Conway moved that Bill 124, An Act to amend the Children's Law Reform Act, be transferred from the standing committee on administration of justice to the standing committee on social development.

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

HIGHWAY TRAFFIC AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. D. S. Cooke moved first reading of Bill 222, An Act to amend the Highway Traffic Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: The purpose of the bill is to permit emergency vehicles, after first coming to a stop at a stop sign or red traffic light, to proceed with caution and to require other drivers to yield the right of way to emergency vehicles unless it is unsafe to do so.

The bill was prepared by Mark Learn, a student who lives in my riding but attends the University of Waterloo. This was part of a political science project for Mark Learn.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

ONTARIO LOTTERY CORPORATION AMENDMENT ACT (continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 119, An Act to amend the Ontario Lottery Corporation Act.

Mr. Speaker: I believe the member for Cambridge has some further comments.

Mr. Farnan: In continuing my comments from yesterday, for the benefit of our viewing audience I would like to put my remarks in context and in perspective. New Democrats have been, from the very beginning of medicare, the champions of quality health care and adequate funding for health care. The New Democratic Party vision of an effective health care system includes a strong commitment to preventive health care. We view a strong and vigorous program that supports sports, culture and fitness as a cornerstone of any health care system, one that we will promote when we become the government party in Ontario.

We believe that a healthy body and a healthy mind make for a healthy society. We believe we can contribute towards this goal by putting in place adequate funding formulae for sports, recreation, fitness and culture. No one who watches the proceedings of this House on a daily basis or who follows the media reports of the activities within this noble assembly will doubt the integrity and honesty with which the issue of adequate funding for health care is pursued by my leader, the member for York South (Mr. B. Rae), and by the Health critic for the NDP, the member for Riverdale (Mr. Reville).

On a consistent basis they have championed adequate funding for health care. When you are

dealing with the New Democratic Party, there is some confidence that you will have consistency. Just for the record, I want to read from a letter sent by my leader to Sport Ontario, which requested from the three parties their positions back in 1988. It reads as follows:

"There is an unspent backlog of money which was accumulated up to April 1, 1988, which was to have gone to culture and recreation. This bill"—referring to Bill 119—"would redirect that money to hospitals. We are fully aware of the desperate need of hospitals for funding, but we are very concerned that there is no guarantee of any particular level of funding to culture, recreation, sports and fitness. Not only that, but there is no equitable process for deciding how the funds would be distributed. It would be decided by cabinet.

"We feel that the money spent on culture and recreation means long-term savings for health and social services. We think it would be a mistake to limit funding in these areas, and we think that is just what the Liberal government has in mind."

1530

This is signed by the leader of the New Democratic Party, the member for York South. There is no question that if there is a champion of health care in Ontario today, it is the leader of the New Democratic Party.

The government bases its premise on the contract or agreement that it wishes to make with the sports and cultural groups of the province by saying, "You may be funded." Of course, there was a very large number of groups that rejected this particular approach in minority government, and the bill died. Those same groups are still opposed.

The government has said, "You can trust us," but the reality of the matter is the people of Ontario are becoming rather suspicious, sceptical and somewhat cynical about a government that has broken its promises on so many issues.

While they may look at individual members of the cabinet and say, "Yes, I trust this particular individual," when they look at the government as a whole, the track record is such that they cannot trust this government. When a government says it will introduce a program of reducing the costs of auto insurance in the province and does not do so, and when a government turns around and does a flip-flop on the Sunday shopping/Sunday work issue, then how can these groups put trust in a piece of legislation which says, "You may get this money"?

Yesterday the member for Essex-Kent (Mr. McGuigan) had the gall to say, "They know they will get the money, because we have an honourable government." There is no substance of faith for the people of Ontario to believe for one moment that they can trust this government. No wonder these groups are concerned.

We have heard much of the continuing commitment to sports, recreation and culture. The groups themselves do not believe this.

I am going to quote now from a letter from the Ontario Municipal Recreation Association dated October 3, 1988, to members of the Legislative Assembly.

"Since 1975, profits from Wintario, Lottario and Instant games have been deposited into the consolidated revenue fund. However, each year not all of the profits were spent on the dedicated beneficiaries—culture, sports, fitness and recreation. By 1988, the total value of unspent profits was \$369 million.

"Section 2 of the bill will transfer all of that money to the Legislature"—read "cabinet"—"for immediate appropriation to hospitals. While OMRA agrees that solving the financial crisis in Ontario's hospitals is a commendable goal, the money should not come from recreation.

"Accepting section 1 of the bill requires OMRA to trust the government, to believe that it is willing to commit financial resources to recreation in Ontario. Their track record proves otherwise. Here are the facts:

"1. In 1985, the unspent moneys in the consolidated revenue fund totalled \$292 million, an average increment of \$27 million to \$28 million each year. Over the next two years, the total grew to \$369 million—a growth rate of \$38 million each year.

"2. From 1977-78 to 1985-86, tax-based revenues spent on Community Recreation Centres Act grants dwindled from \$19.4 million to \$2.8 million. During three years of rule by the current government, the money spent on this program each year was zero dollars, zero dollars and zero dollars." What a commitment.

"3. Another tax-funded source of revenue available to communities is regulation 517. In 1985-86, the government miscalculated the total requirement, \$5.1 million instead of \$5.8 million. In each year since, the exact same total was made available. No attempt was made in any budget to reduce the shortfall.

"4. In fiscal year 1987 and fiscal year 1988, the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation received an identical budget appropriation. No increase was deemed necessary to meet the demands of

inflation, population growth and increased amounts of leisure time.

"OMRA believes that the government has not proven its financial commitment to the recreation needs of communities and citizens of Ontario. How can we trust them when they tell us that only residual revenues, those not given to culture, sports, fitness and recreation, will be allocated to the Trillium Foundation and to hospitals? Who defines residual revenues?"

Obviously, the Ontario Municipal Recreation Association does not want this bill passed as it is currently written. They recommend that it be rescinded and at least sent to committee, where OMRA and other interested groups and parties can make a united plea for changes that will benefit all Ontarians.

The reason there is such unease and concern among all of the sports and cultural groups of the province is precisely the track record of the government. How can they say to these groups, "Trust us; the basis of the agreement is going to be a basis of trust," when they know that the experience of the past has been that they have had a dwindling, decreased real dollar commitment to sports, culture, fitness and recreation?

Let us presume for a moment that there is a global fund available and it is \$369 million. In some of the correspondence I have had with sports groups, they have said: "We do not want all of the funds; we are not asking for all of the funds. What we want is a guaranteed level of funding. What we want is a guaranteed formula that will see this allocation increase."

They can live with an allocation of a specific amount of money for a particular use within the medical field—a capital cost, specific equipment—as a one-time shot for the use of accumulated funds, but they have no guarantee that there will be ongoing funding of sports, culture, fitness and recreation at an adequate level, and they will have to compete with the needs of hospitals.

New Democrats believe that the government must boost its commitment to preventive health care and hence must boost its commitment to sports and cultural activities. This is the formula for a progressive and enlightened approach to health care in Ontario; no Band-Aid solutions but a clearly developed, conscious policy of preventive health care.

1540

Let me continue by quoting from another group representing many individuals, the Parks and Recreation Federation of Ontario. In correspondence with members of the provincial

parliament in September 1988, John McIntyre, the chairman of the group, had this to say:

"Demand for funding by clients through lottery programs far surpasses the grant awards made by the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation and the Ministry of Culture and Communications. Every year, these ministries receive hundreds of grant requests. Admittedly, some of these requests do not meet the criteria of the ministry. However, the federation also knows that a large number of grant applicants, which are considered to be complete and eligible applications, do not get funded.

"The federation has formally requested from the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation the exact dollar value of those eligible requests which are not funded on a yearly basis. We believe that this is vital information which should be shared with all practitioners in the field of recreation in this province, as well as all members of provincial parliament. This type of information should be brought forward before Bill 119 is considered for third reading and royal assent."

That is a perfectly legitimate request on the part of a major group. We have a surplus that has accumulated. What are the grants that have been refused over the many years in which this surplus has accumulated? What are the grants? These are legitimate applications that met the criteria but were not funded.

How can a government say it has a real commitment to sports, culture, fitness and recreation when it has a fund there that was specifically designed and designated for that particular purpose and we have ministers in the cabinet saying that they look upon these particular areas as being real areas of preventive health care? How can that government not fund those areas of legitimate request and expect the players in this particular field to take them seriously when they say, "Trust us"?

There are literally thousands of legitimate, eligible requests that have been rejected. They were rejected because of lack of funds. That was the reason that was given—lack of funds—at the same time as there was an accumulation of surplus within this area.

We are talking about every possible kind of group across the province. We are talking about men and women who try to teach our kids how to play hockey and the people who are running summer camps to keep kids off the streets. We are talking about huge organizations with literally millions of volunteers. They represent the heart and soul of Ontario. They represent a very generous commitment on the part of volunteers

to co-operate with the government in developing a real preventive health care system and they are not getting funded adequately.

This is a letter addressed to the Premier (Mr. Peterson) from the Boys and Girls Clubs of Ontario, dated July 18, 1988:

"On behalf of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Ontario, I wish to express our serious concern regarding Bill 119 and the significant impact of its enactment on the field of parks, recreation and culture. At the present time, our agency provides services to over 17,000 youngsters throughout Ontario. The recreational programs which are provided address the improvement of lifestyles, the development of self-esteem and the actualization of leadership potential.

"Many nonprofit agencies such as ours have built community-based facilities through which recreation, day care, seniors programs and youth employment programs are provided. These services, which have been requested by the communities in which we operate, oftentimes only skim the surface of diverse needs which our society is presently experiencing."

In my short time in the House, I have listened to opposition critics questioning, for example, the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) and the minister himself recognizing the great needs that are yet unmet. Here is a fund available; here are volunteers available to deliver the service.

The letter continues: "It is our concern that the unallocated but dedicated dollars from the proceeds of lotteries are not being directed to parks, recreation, and culture in Ontario, although there is an apparent and obvious need for such. In addition, it is a concern that the funds dedicated to these areas are losing their purchasing power as a result of annual rates of inflation."

I quote from a letter from Sport Ontario to the Premier dated June 29, 1988. Sport Ontario, as members know, is the collective voice for sport in Ontario and represents not only 55 member associations but also more than one million registered individual athletes. In addition to this number of athletes, one may add an equal number of volunteers, coaches, and officials. Mel Barlow, chairman of Sport Ontario, writes:

"I am writing to you on behalf of the membership to register our deep concern with respect to the introduction of Bill 119 regarding the addition of hospitals into the dedication of lottery funds.

"Before the government proceeds any further with Bill 119, we urge you to take the time to carefully consider both the long- and short-term

implications of this act on the fields of sport, fitness and recreation. At the very least, if the bill receives second reading, it should be referred to committee for a comprehensive review. Our athletes, coaches and volunteers are all depending on your government to keep Ontario's sports system strong. Your decision on Bill 119 on lottery funding is critical to the wellbeing of athletes from every small-town rink, diamond and court to the national team athletes on their way to Seoul, South Korea, and beyond. Don't let them down."

I cannot help but draw a comparison to the fanfare that went on in this House with the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr. O'Neil) standing up and blowing the trumpet about our athletes in Seoul—mind you, blowing the trumpet on those who won medals. Despite the fact that I have on two occasions now, once in the House and once in estimates, requested that all of the athletes be recognized and their names read into the record, that has not happened. The tragedy is that there is no fanfare for the kids in the small rinks. We can deny them their access as long as we can blow our trumpet when some athlete wins a medal in Seoul or some exotic area abroad.

This is the politics of grandeur. This is not the politics of people. The politics of real people is in the small rinks of every little city of Ontario. I realize that I am speaking to the heart of the issue when I see the jolly Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) of the province bilking the province by every possible means of tax and at the same time taking away from the sports and culture groups.

1550

The Ontario Association of Art Galleries: "We are concerned with a possible retroactive feature of Bill 119. What will happen to the accumulated unspent lottery funds?" This letter was written September 26, 1988, to the Treasurer.

"Your assurance that provincial lottery-based spending for culture will not be jeopardized by Bill 119 is not reassuring. We have tried to present evidence that the amounts actually budgeted for culture in 1987-88 are inadequate. Since December 1987, grants requests from 15 public galleries totalling \$125,725 have been refused—requests for art acquisition, internships, art in public places and professional development. The professional development requests made to attend OAAG seminars were in amounts as insignificant as \$106, \$297, \$459, \$372—not granted; and yet OAAG is funded and mandated to provide professional development."

The Boy Scouts of Canada, writing the Premier on October 27: "On behalf of the Boy Scouts of Canada, provincial council for Ontario, I am writing to express our concern over Bill 119 and its potential harm to the whole area of recreation and culture. The reallocation of funds from agencies, organizations and recreation activities would seem to be in direct conflict with the of the Minister of Health's (Mrs. Caplan) stated objective of redirecting health policy to preventive measures, rather than the expensive treatment of subsequent medical problems, many of which could have been prevented by the right environment and emphasis in earlier years."

The corporation of the town of Onaping Falls adds its voice to the list of those who would challenge this bill.

Artscape, in a letter to the Premier of August 11, 1988: "Toronto Artscape is a nonprofit corporation with a mandate to provide secure, affordable workspace for artists. We are writing to register our serious concerns. The sectors to which lottery funds have to date been dedicated are of growing importance. Recognizing the ageing demographic profile of Ontario's population and growing costs of health care, combined with growing recognition of the need for holistic care—attending to individuals' mental as well as physical needs in fostering good health—have led to increased recognition of the vital roles of physical and cultural recreation in our society.

"Through these we foster health, fitness, creation, innovation and invention. Such activities can only be conducted effectively from a base of solid planning and adequate facilities. While numerous successful planning and facilities projects have been supported by lottery funds, there are many communities whose needs on this front have not, as yet, been met.

"We recognize the continuing needs and benefits of the culture, recreation, sport and fitness communities, and hence the importance of this government's clearly articulated, secure, continued commitment of net profits of the Ontario Lottery Corp. to this sector.

"We thus express our substantial concern regarding Bill 119 and encourage your reconsideration of the matter."

The township of Schreiber, in a letter of June 15, 1988, to the Premier, questions the concept of partnership. It is getting conflicting messages: "On the one hand, the Minister of Tourism and Recreation has recently formulated, adopted and distributed a community recreation policy statement which stresses the importance of the partner concept throughout. Portions of this policy

statement have been stressed in justifying various changes in programs and policies by the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, but in the area of the allocation of lottery funds, what we are finding is that these groups are silent partners. Their view is not asked, their view is not considered, their view is irrelevant and their needs are irrelevant to this government."

Again I add a letter to the member for Kenora (Mr. Miclash) from the director of recreation of the town of Dryden, Gerry Ferguson, urging the member to seek government reconsideration:

"Just recently I had a discussion with a very concerned lady, a single parent with two growing children who are living on welfare. Unfortunately, she would not give me her name or write to you, as I suggested. She sounded like a proud lady in a difficult and frustrating position.

"Her concern is her two children, both students, who after returning from school sit down in front of the TV, eat in front of the TV until bedtime, and the pattern is similar on weekends, resulting in these youngsters becoming couch potatoes. There is no extra money for these youngsters to participate in the community recreation activities organizations. If she could save enough to pay the admission or membership fee, she cannot afford to purchase the personal equipment needed for them to participate.

"On checking with our town welfare office and the Ontario Ministry of Social and Community Services, they advise that there are no funds available for boys and girls in these circumstances to pay admission fees, community sports club fees or purchase the necessary equipment to participate in any of these leisure activities. Both mentioned that they receive numerous requests for such funds from low-income and welfare families.

"Without some form of financial assistance to these individuals, the government is now raising a large and growing crop of couch potatoes. Unless something is done quickly, these potatoes may become rotten in society later, which, unfortunately, is happening now in some cities and towns, resulting in increasing vandalism, drug use and health costs.

"Is the government now pricing community leisure activities only for the middle class and up? Just ask a parent what it costs to have their youngster participate in hockey, ringette, figure skating, etc."

I come to a letter I received from a group in my own area, the Conestoga Five Pin Bowling Association. This league covers the area of my home base, Cambridge. It also includes

Kitchener, Waterloo, Stratford, New Hamburg and Elmira. They too have joined our voice in requesting the rescinding of Bill 119. Part of the letter reads:

"We are not implying that health care is not important, but rather that the funds be used for what they were originally intended. Health care is covered under other budgeting, and possibly that budget should be reviewed, rather than funds be taken from other areas to correct the situation.

"If these funds are taken away, many amateur sports will suffer a great setback and, in turn, many youth participants and adult volunteers will be lost."

I believe that the Conestoga Five Pin Bowling Association reflects the thinking of many sports groups across the province.

I think we have clearly demonstrated, and that was my intent, that the sports, recreation, fitness and cultural groups of Ontario are very, very strongly opposed to this legislation.

I can recall a Liberal member saying to me, "Well, you know in Ireland, Mike, they had lottery funds used for hospitals." That is true. However, let me remind the House that the lottery fund in Ireland is no longer in existence, by the way, because the Irish realized what was happening with lottery funding in California. A lottery was used in California for education, and of course with the decrease in the spending on lottery tickets, education suffered in California. The Irish also realized that you cannot fund an essential service like hospitals out of lotteries.

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When the Irish Hospitals' Sweepstakes, which was a lottery, did exist, it was very clear that the funds raised in that lottery went specifically to hospitals as designated. The funds we are talking about were also very clearly designated. They were designated for sports, fitness, recreation and culture. This government made a similar commitment. What I am saying is that the Irish government lived up to the commitment it made. It would be nice if this government could live up to its commitment.

I want to look at the difference that exists between the government we have in 1989 and the government we had in 1985-87. There is a very distinct difference between the two governments. One was a minority government with 48 Liberal members, I believe. Because it was a minority government, there was a sensitivity to what the people of Ontario were saying. When the people of Ontario spoke, there was a chance that the government would listen.

With the change that took place on September 10, 1987, when that massive Liberal tide swept across the province and 95 Liberals were returned to this House, a real tragedy took place, because I prefer to have 48 Liberals who listen than 95 Liberals who refuse to listen. I can tell members that the people of Ontario prefer a minority government that listens to a majority government that is arrogant and refuses to listen, and that is precisely what we have today.

These groups fear that their protests will go unheeded. With the new legislation, the profits from all six lotteries will go into the same pot. Enough money will then be shared between sports and cultural groups and the Ontario Trillium Foundation and what is left over will go to pay hospitals' operating costs. But nobody says what the guarantees are for sports and recreation, nobody defines what that limit is.

As I said in my opening remarks, this government not only refuses to listen, not only is arrogant, but is extremely devious. This government has moved the focus of the debate from an adequate funding level for sports groups to where the funding comes from. We can show clearly that the real dollars for these groups have declined. The government is saying, "We believe in hospitals." So what? Big deal. We all believe in hospitals and we all believe hospitals should be adequately funded, but we in the New Democratic Party believe that preventive health care, through sports and recreation, is a cornerstone of any quality system that delivers a quality health care package for the people of Ontario.

When sports groups sit around their basements trying to raise those extra few bucks to send the kids to a hockey tournament and sit around in the basement trying to think of ways to raise a few dollars to buy some sports equipment or outfits for the children in their charge, I know the question they are asking themselves at the moment. The question they are asking themselves is, "Can we trust this government?" Unfortunately, the answer is, "No, we can't," because the track record of this government is that, on a whole variety of issues, this government has flip-flopped.

This government is not even promising these groups a funding formula. This government is saying to these groups, "We may allocate certain funds for this purpose, but we shall allocate the residual to the hospitals." There is no protection in that language.

I do not know of one individual, whether it be in the commercial, business or labour sector, who would sit down at the bargaining table or in a

business meeting and sign a contract which said, "We may deliver what you require for your needs." When I sign to purchase a car, the signature that I get says the car will be delivered by a certain date. Of course, these groups can have no hope or confidence in the legislation.

What is the minister saying? The minister is saying to the groups: "Don't worry, sports. Hospitals are going to get the residual revenues." But who is going to say what residual revenues are? Who is going to decide what these residual revenues are? The cabinet is going to decide. It is going to decide that they might get them, but then again, they might not.

I am going to conclude very soon, but I know there are a couple of concluding remarks the members would not want me to forgo. There has to be a very clearly defined commitment to the sports, recreation, fitness and cultural groups of this province. We have to know how much it is and whether it will be ongoing. That is what the government must tell the groups. If the government simply wants to play the role of arbitrary dispenser of funds, in my view, it creates a very unstable and uncertain situation for the areas affected. This is an approach that smacks totally of paternalism and arbitrariness.

Paternalism and arbitrariness are the characteristics of a majority government. It is not surprising at all that when we have 94 members in government, it refuses to listen and it says to the groups: "Listen, you'll get what we say you'll get. If it's less, too bad, but we're not even going to listen to your complaints."

It is vitally important that in concluding my remarks I very clearly enunciate where New Democrats stand. New Democrats stand for a quality health care system. We believe that a quality health care system should be funded adequately from a secure base, and that should not be dependent upon income from lotteries, which fluctuates.

What are we going to say to the residents of Ontario in good years? "We will provide you with better health care." And in bad years: "Well, health care just won't be so good. You need a heart bypass surgery this year? Well, we had a good year on lotteries. Give him a bypass." But next year: "You're out of luck. We didn't sell that many lottery tickets this year. So why don't you come back next year, and by the way, why don't you buy more lottery tickets and you'll have a better chance of getting your triple bypass surgery."

Isn't that tremendous? Is this the vision of the Liberal Party? Has health care, the sacred trust of providing decent-quality health care for the people of Ontario, sunk to such a low that the Liberal Party says, "We can tie medicare to lotteries"? Boy, oh boy. Indeed, our health is at stake. The viewers of this proceeding today should know that the Liberal government wants to play Russian roulette with health care, with their lives, because if they are going to provide health care on the basis of lotteries, they are on the wrong base.

I want to spend these last two minutes talking to my friends and the viewing audience in particular. I want to say to the viewing audience that with New Democrats they have a commitment to a complete system of health care. They have a commitment from New Democrats that our health care system is not institutionalization and it is not just hospitalization; it is in fact a system that is a continuum that includes preventive health care. If necessary, we will have the hospital available and quality health care in the hospital available.

We will have adequate funding for hospitals, but we will make a real commitment with those funds we have allocated to recreation, sports, fitness and culture. I know I can say to all the sports, fitness and cultural groups that New Democrats will not double-cross them. We will provide the funding because we know they are part of the preventive health care system. We will not let them down. We will guarantee them funding at the appropriate level because we know the groups that contribute to a healthy body and a healthy mind are the groups that will save us tax dollars in the long run in terms of providing a health care system.

There is a difference I want to emphasize today because the government is going to try to move around this issue. Goodness knows, the Treasurer is as nimble an operator as they come, but it is very important the people of Ontario realize that with New Democrats, there is a difference in vision when we talk about health care. There is a very distinct difference in vision between New Democrats and Liberals because from the very beginning, health care and medicare were the child, the idea, of the New Democratic Party, from Tommy Douglas of the Saskatchewan party that first implemented it. Because of pressure from New Democrats across the country, medicare became a reality.

My friends, New Democrats today are as committed to quality health care as we have ever been. Perhaps we are more committed to quality

health care because we see it threatened by old-line parties such as the Liberals and Conservatives, who are prepared to cut corners. But my friends, we want all the sports groups out there to know that we realize they are part of the preventive health care system of Ontario.

It has been a great pleasure for me to address the House, both yesterday and today. I want to thank the members opposite for their very careful attention to my remarks, but I want to ask them for more than their simple attention. I want them to look inside their hearts. I want them to examine their consciences. I want the government to reflect very carefully on the message all these groups across the province are sending out.

I want the government to say: "Let's hold back. Let's not be hasty. Let's give health care the priority it deserves. Let's look at preventive health care in the kind of light in which New Democrats look at preventive health care. For example, let's reconsider our position where only one tenth of one cent of every health dollar presently goes to preventive health care." That is a condemnation of this government.

We are saying we are prepared to put our money where our mouth is. We are prepared to invest heavily in preventive health care because we believe we have an overall system that down the road is going to protect the taxpayer in having to invest very heavily in institutionalization and in hospitalization.

I ask the government to reflect. I ask the government members to look into their consciences, and more than anything else, to listen. For goodness' sake, the government should put aside its arrogance, cast aside its arrogance for one moment of time. It should listen to the people of Ontario and hear their voices. The people of Ontario are saying to the government: "This bill must be rescinded. At the very least, it must go to committee."

Even sending it to committee gives me little comfort because I have gone through the process where I travelled this province with the Sunday shopping issue and heard 529 delegations, representing every segment of the community, come before the committee and say to this government, "We want a common pause day." We heard nine groups come before us and say, "We support open Sunday shopping." Despite the fact the government set up a committee to go out, it did not listen. The Liberals did exactly what they were going to do and did not care what the people of Ontario said. They did it in spite of what the people said.

My fear is that what is going to happen today is that the Deputy Premier (Mr. R. F. Nixon) is going to give his very careful shuffle. He is going to try to deflect this issue from funding to sourcing. Indeed, the government will be forced to send this bill out to committee. But the tragedy of the matter is that those individuals who, like the honourable House leader, had some degree of sensitivity and openness in opposition, have become very aloof, very—I suppose it is just not listening. That is sad.

The people of Ontario are making a checklist and I want the honourable House leader to know that on that checklist they are saying, "Auto insurance: broken promise; Sunday shopping: broken promise." They are going to look at this one and they are going to say, "Health care: failed to deliver on preventive health care." There is a political price to pay, my friends, and that political price—

Mr. Ballinger: You ought to know. You won by 100 votes.

Mr. Farnan: The member for Durham-York is anxious to get in with his comments again. It is a price that backbenchers like the member may have to pay.

It has been a real pleasure and I know the viewing audience out there will carefully evaluate these remarks. I am sure the government may be influenced as a result. I certainly hope so.

1620

Mr. Cousens: In dealing with Bill 119, An Act to amend the Ontario Lottery Corporation Act, I am concerned with the effect of it. It is not a long bill but it would have quite an effect on what is going to happen with lottery moneys in Ontario. It is like a lot of other bills we are dealing with. It is just a few changes here and a few changes there, but it has significant ramifications as to the long-term effect on what is going to happen with the moneys from Wintario and the Ontario Lottery Corp.

Our caucus will be opposing this bill. I oppose it personally. I think the bill is flawed in a number of ways. I would like to briefly enter some of my concerns about it. I think what will happen is that when this bill comes for a final vote, it will not be voted down. We will try to, but the Liberal majority will carry it. We will at least force it into committee, and through the committee hearings there will be an opportunity for the public and interested groups to make a statement as to what they see should be done to change it.

It is rather tragic that during the past year we have seen what this government does with public input. When the government was faced with the

whole proposal of whether Sundays should be open or closed, there were well over 500 presentations by different people and groups to the committee over a year of hearings. At the end of that time, the government really did not change its position at all. I guess that is the tragedy we have now. The government will not listen. They have proved that in a number of other areas. I do not hold out a lot of hope for either ourselves or anyone else who wants to amend this bill to rectify some of the concerns that have been addressed earlier.

I am concerned with three different aspects of Bill 119. The first one has to do with trust, my trust in the government and what it is going to do with the bill. The bill in itself really gives the government a wide-open option to interpret the needs according to the time. As they change, the government can say, "We'll put more money into recreation and sport," or less, but I happen to believe it is going to be the night of a thousand knives. Annually, there is going to be less and less money invested in sports and recreation.

There is no guarantee in this bill about how much money is going to be placed into sports and recreation facilities and services within Ontario. It just says that the money not spent on that will go to the health care system. If I had some sense that there was going to be a specific amount, we could begin to budget and plan for our communities, which have benefited so much from the investment through the lottery funds. In my own community, we are seeing \$500,000 going to the Milliken library. We have seen money go to theatre, to so many centres for recreation and to the sports field. All of these investments by the province have long-term benefits for the whole community.

What we are going to see with the passing of this bill is no guarantee that there is going to be a continuation of the extent of service and commitment that have been part of the corporation since it was first started. I am concerned that this bill dramatically changes the spirit of how lottery profits are going to be spent. Now, in fact, we are going to see the funding decreased as it affects our recreational and cultural activities.

I do not think the bill does anything to ensure that hospitals will receive any more funding. Again, though we want to see the hospitals funded and though the hospitals require over a third of the total provincial budget right now, is this really the place from which to take the money? If we are going to really look at the needs of hospitals and health care, and though we see it as a major priority for our community and our

province, if this bill is really saying what the government says it is, then the bill should spell it out more clearly.

I happen to believe we are dealing with a government that has changing priorities all the time. Though the bill does spell out that the surplus revenues will go to hospitals, I wonder just how changeable this government is in its priorities. Maybe next year it is going to be the environment and they will change it for that. Indeed, we should have a greater emphasis on the environment. Maybe it is going to be potholes or maybe it is going to be books in schools. There are many things we could be investing in in this province. I do not have any satisfaction that the government has a true commitment to recreation, sports and cultural activities or to health care, because all of them seem to be crumbling when it touches them.

The sense of trust that this government is going to do what it says it is going to do about how it is going to spend moneys is something I have very many doubts about.

I am concerned about the matter of balance. We can talk about health care as being so all-important. There is not one person among the 130 people in this Legislature who does not believe in the importance of health care and the adequacy of the health care system. We have to have a high-quality system in Ontario. That is indeed something that is self-evident to all of us, but what we are now seeing with this bill is that it unfairly pits the sports, cultural, recreational and fitness groups against hospitals for public support.

One of the things that will happen is that when the public learns what this bill is all about, first off, many people will say: "It's a good idea. Let's put the money into health. We need more money to provide for our hospitals and the health care system. It's obvious that they do not have enough money right now, so let's take the money from the lottery systems and put it there."

Well, I believe something else should happen, that in fact the hospitals should be funded out of the general revenues and should not be dependent on or rely on the fluctuating lottery program to finance important social programs.

I hope that when the government looks at how money can be spent in hospitals, it might be able to spend it on some of the extras that are needed, such as dialysis systems or the computerized axial tomography scanners that are needed in different hospitals. There is going to be new technology that can take our whole health care system farther into the future. It might be spent in

some of the areas of research and development and scientific advancement. We have not begun to put the money into future planning so that we do our share of solving problems with proper investment in the health care system through the support of professors, students and those who are really trying to develop new systems.

One of the basic and fundamental problems I have with this government as a whole is the fact that this government has really not faced up to how it is going to run the health care system and how it is going to finance that system. It should not be simply finding new ways to pay for it all; rather, it should be a government that tries to find better ways of controlling and administering the billions of dollars that are going into health care each year. That is part of the balance I would like to see from this government.

I do not have the trust that it really knows how to handle it. I do not have the sense of confidence that it knows how to balance the books, balance the objectives and the needs that go on within the different areas of the community.

I do not know how this government is going to be able to answer the people who have worked so hard to bring the Olympics to Toronto, when in fact what it is going to be doing is trying to reduce the amount of money that goes to that. If they were able to say within this bill that they were going to back up the commitment for the Olympics with continued expenditure of funds for sports and recreational facilities, that would be something rather pleasing to know.

Instead they are saying on the one hand: "We want the Olympics. It would be nice to have them in and around Toronto. Wouldn't that be good? It would do a great deal for all the communities that surround this area and for southern Ontario, but..." I do not see the concomitant investment by the province to help make that happen.

I have to say that it is a major problem of a breakdown of what it is we really want to see happen in our province. We want to see a province that has harmony between all areas that make up a strong and good society. That is the fundamental balance that is implicit to what this bill is all about. We cannot continue to have a strong and healthy society without preventive health. We should not just deal with the symptoms of disease and sickness and the problems people have, but through a good recreational service and through investment in cultural activities within the community, we will then continue to have a society that is balanced in a strong way.

There is a significant impact on health through strong recreational programs. I have heard of and know of seniors who, once they become involved in recreation of different kinds, need less medication. They need less attention to other problems. They get out and they learn the value of exercise and of participating in things. In fact, there have been studies done. Dr. Roy Shephard of the University of Toronto indicates that participation in regular recreational and fitness activities, as part of a comprehensive lifestyle program, results in reduced medical care costs.

This study found that a more physically active society produces improved personal health habits, a reduction in the number of doctors' visits, less prescription drug requirements, better ability to cope with stress, fewer days of work missed, better attitudes towards work, reduced medical costs and greater ability of older adults to live independently in their communities, reducing the costs of geriatric care.

1630

Having a strong recreational program, having a strong cultural program makes up just one of the many components that builds a strong society, and for this government gradually to slip the money away from those important activities is to say, "Well, we're just going to concentrate exclusively on health." I do not think they can do it all that way. It just starts with a sense of balance and what is important.

I have to say that recreation is an essential service for our province. It has a significant impact on the economy. As we start looking at the dollars that are invested in recreation, it has a \$7.3-billion impact on the provincial economy, and the fact of the matter is that there is quite a multiplier effect. For every dollar that is spent by the province in recreational activity, it causes nine other dollars to be invested, so there is a stimulus to the whole economy through this investment.

I believe there is a significant political impact by continuing to support strong recreational programs. I think the recreational sector is dependent so much on the province for funding, for maintenance, for growth; and for the province not to realize that it is an integral partner of this is to begin to show that it has lost sense of its priorities, it has lost sense of that balance I was talking about earlier.

I would like to say an awful lot more about this issue but I think there are many others who want to participate in the debate that pertains to Bill 119. I really hope that our Treasurer will rethink some of the things that have been tabled today

and other days during the debate and will also pay close attention to the public's presentations when it makes its feelings known to the committee when it goes out for public hearings.

It is a very frustrating thing to be here in the House knowing that the likelihood of there being any change to Bill 119 is slim, but I believe strongly in trying to promote a number of things. Let's promote a strong, healthy society. Let's not try to fool people and say, "Oh, we're going to do this just in order to make a stronger health system." I think we have to have them all in harmony and balance, and we are not doing it by taking the money away from sports and recreation and cultural things to put it into health care.

When the government is prepared to put an amendment in this bill that enunciates clearly that it is prepared to defend and continue to build and strengthen the recreational and cultural sector of our society, then this bill will begin to have meaning to it. Then I will have some trust in it. I do not have that element of trust in all the members opposite, and until it is put into the form of an amendment, I think this is going to be a very weak bill and just lead to further erosion of fundamental values of our society and of our communities.

I know there are many others who wish to talk. There are many other things I would like to say to expand on my points of view, but none the less I believe it is a matter of trust, it is a matter of balance and it is a matter of placing our health and recreational systems in harmony together, knowing that we cannot have one without the other.

Mr. Hampton: We realize that the government is insistent upon this legislation. We realize, of course, the natural facts of this place. They have 94 members and our only possibility of making the government turn around would be to go to the wall on this issue as we have on a few others. The fact is we cannot go to the wall on every issue, so we are placed in the position of saying to the government, "If you really want this legislation and you want to go through all the steps, then I guess you can have it."

I only want to put on the record a number of concerns that have been raised with me by a number of community groups all across northern Ontario. The concerns of those groups are quite simply this: First, most northern Ontario communities are, compared to their southern neighbours, relatively isolated. Second, most northern Ontario communities are not large communities. If you are going to operate a curling club, a minor hockey association, a gymnastics club or a

multiculturalism association, there is only so much voluntary money out there among the citizens of the community.

In particular, if you are a community that has suffered through the recession that hits northern Ontario harder than any other part of Ontario, it is not unusual that one or two of the key industries in your community—if you have more than one key industry—may not have recovered from the recession.

So there are communities at the present time that cannot find the funds they need to operate some of the community, cultural and recreational activities that we think contribute to a good quality of life. Many of those groups have written to me or have approached me directly and said: "Look, we really have fears over this bill. We fear that if there is any tightening up of the money, we will suffer more than we are already suffering and, as it stands, we're barely getting through."

I want to put it across to the Treasurer that there are some groups out there who are very worried about what he is doing. I want to say to him that in my own mind I do not think he is doing the right thing. I think that some of those community cultural and recreational groups will likely suffer. I think the ones that will suffer the most are those organizations that are already having a tough time making it.

As a result, I think that the quality of life that we lead in many towns and in many communities in northern Ontario very likely will suffer. I hope that once the government has its way, it will not allow funding of community recreational and cultural groups to decline. I hope that is the case.

I want to put one other comment on the record and that is this: There are many jurisdictions in the United States that have become involved with the idea of using lottery revenues to fund what we consider to be essential services, whether those services be for education or for medical care. I think almost all of them have rued that decision in retrospect, because that kind of decision leads to two things.

First, services like education and health care, as we know, require a great deal of money. Once one becomes dependent on that kind of lottery funding, it then becomes an easy issue for those people who promote lotteries, bingos or even the more commercialized forms of gambling, to come to the government and say: "Look, why don't you open up our society to wide-open gambling? Why don't you expand the lotteries even more?"

I think there are two things wrong with that. First, lotteries are overwhelmingly a tax on those who can least afford it. Let's say it is a quiet way of tapping the pockets of those people whom we otherwise would not want to tax. It is an unfair tax, ultimately. Second, the more society gets into legalized gambling, the more social problems you create at the end of the way. So I think that, ultimately, Ontario will live to regret the day it began to use lottery funds to finance an essential service such as health care.

Having said that, the government can have its way. It has the 94 members and it can pass its legislation. But I emphasize again: I think we are headed down the wrong path in terms of the expansion of even more lotteries and I think we are also headed on the wrong path in that, ultimately, the funding that is available to community recreational and cultural groups will not increase as it should for their needs. Some of those organizations will suffer and, as a result, in some communities I think the quality of life will suffer.

However, as I said, the Treasurer has determined that the Liberal Party supports this legislation. The Treasurer has the majority and ultimately he will have the say. Only in this case, I think his say is the wrong say.

1640

Mr. McLean: I am very disappointed that there are not more than seven Liberals here to listen to this outstanding speech that they are about to hear.

Mr. Ballinger: As soon as you start we are going to lose five more.

Mr. McLean: The member is well aware that we are not the government. We do not have to keep the members in the House.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to outline the concerns I have with Bill 119, An Act to amend the Ontario Lottery Corporation Act, which received first reading on April 25, 1988. As we all know, lottery profits have become an increasingly important source of revenue for the Ontario government. For example, in the current fiscal year, lottery profits paid into the consolidated revenue fund are projected to total \$460 million, an increase of some 367.5 per cent relative to 1977-78 levels.

The introduction of this bill indicates to me that the rapid growth of lottery profits, coupled with growing funding pressures in a number of priority expenditure areas, has encouraged this government to attempt to free itself from the statutory limits imposed on the use of lottery proceeds in Ontario. These limits on the proceeds

from Ontario-only lottery games are currently set out in section 9 of the Ontario Lottery Corporation Act, which provides that:

"The net profits of the corporation after provision for prizes and the payment of expenses of operations shall be paid into the consolidated revenue fund at such times and in such manner as the Lieutenant Governor in Council may direct, to be available for the promotion and development of physical fitness, sports, recreation and cultural activities and facilities therefor."

Only the net profits of the Ontario-only games—Wintario, Lottario and Instant win—are appropriated and allocated for the purposes described in section 9. Until 1986, proceeds from the interprovincial games were paid into the consolidated revenue fund and used to support health and environmentally related health research, hospital funding and building and equipment, senior citizens' housing and the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

However, in 1986 the government changed its policy and now proceeds from interprovincial games are simply paid into the central revenue fund with no specific provisions attached for their allocation. The same government has indicated that it wants to have greater discretion than it currently enjoys with respect to the use of lottery proceeds in this province. In fact, the government first tried to implement this policy by way of Bill 38, which was introduced on May 13, 1986.

Bill 38 would have implemented the 1986 budget proposal to eliminate the limitations imposed on the use of lottery profits of section 9 by deleting the relevant parts of the section. Bill 38 did not stipulate any alternative use for lottery profits. The members will recall that Bill 38 did not move beyond first reading and was abandoned when the government faced stiff legislative and interest group opposition.

However, the Treasurer made it quite clear at that time that he was not abandoning the concept. In fact, the idea resurfaced in the Treasurer's 1988 budget, which stated, "Legislation will be introduced to make provincial expenditures on the operation of hospitals eligible for funding from lottery profits."

Bill 119, which we are debating here today, re-enacts section 9 of the act and amends it to provide that proceeds from the lotteries paid into the revenue fund may also be made available to the Ontario Trillium Foundation. "May" is the key word there. It provides that any net profits not appropriated "for the promotion and development of physical fitness, sports, recreational and

cultural activities and facilities" and "for the activities of the Ontario Trillium Foundation" shall be applied to and appropriated for the operation of hospitals. It also provides that unexpended net profits paid into the central revenue fund before April 1, 1988, shall be applied to the operation of the hospitals and shall be accounted for as such in the public accounts.

Bill 119 differs from Bill 38 in several important respects. Unlike Bill 38, Bill 119 does not eliminate the statutory provisions providing that lottery profits be used to support section 9 activities. Unlike Bill 38, Bill 119 stipulates an alternative use for the profits not allocated to the activities mentioned in section 9, that being the operation of hospitals. Bill 38 did not deal with the question of how the accumulated surplus was to be dealt with but Bill 119 provides that the surplus be appropriated for and applied to the operation of hospitals.

Once again, there is a great deal of opposition coming from a coalition of recreational, sports and cultural organizations. The groups that are opposing Bill 119 are the same ones which successfully blocked Bill 38. They have been mobilized under an umbrella organization called the Alliance to Protect Culture, Recreation, Sports and Fitness in Ontario. As well, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has expressed some serious reservations about Bill 119 and more than 90 municipalities have actually passed resolutions opposing the bill.

I have concerns that Bill 119 will result in any real increase in the amount of hospital operating funding. I fear that if this bill is passed, additional funding provided through lottery profits will simply be offset by reductions in the amount of funding received from the general revenues, resulting in no net increase.

On a number of occasions I have urged the Minister of Tourism and Recreation to meet with the Ontario Lottery Corp. officials to devise a new province-wide lottery aimed at generating funds exclusively for hospital construction projects. We in Ontario need expanded or new hospitals, and that means that creative new methods for providing hospital capital funding must be devised to meet the growing demand.

I believe the people of Ontario would wholeheartedly support a new lottery, especially if they knew that all proceeds would be used for expanded or new hospitals, construction projects in their own communities. However, my plea for this unique new lottery appears to have fallen on deaf ears, and I find that to be an extremely sorry state of affairs.

In conclusion, I would like to briefly outline why I am opposed to Bill 119. I have already mentioned some of the reasons.

Lottery profits were originally intended to support sports, recreational and cultural programs and activities, and this purpose should be maintained, as these activities are badly in need of funds and the government has either discontinued, prorated or flat-lined all alternative funding mechanisms. If the government insists on redirecting lottery profits away from these activities, then the government should ensure adequate funding of the relevant grant programs from its general revenue base.

This bill amounts to unfair, retroactive expropriation of the unallocated surplus. Bill 119 unfairly pits sports, recreation, culture and fitness groups against hospitals for public support. The bill does not provide any guarantee of a minimum funding level or a minimum share of the profits, nor does it make any provisions for year-over-year increases in the level of financial support available to these groups from lottery proceeds.

Sports, recreational and fitness groups all make a contribution to the Ontario health care system by encouraging healthy lifestyles and should be supported for that reason. Bill 119 threatens reliable funding for these groups and does not guarantee any increase in funding for hospitals; it merely allows a government to account for normal expenditures appropriated by the Legislature.

1650

The government should abandon Bill 119, just as it did Bill 38. Failing that, the government should at least send Bill 119 to committee after second reading to allow the affected groups to voice their concerns and to ensure that the government is made aware of all the implications of this piece of legislation.

As I said before, I called on the then Minister of Tourism and Recreation to have a special lottery. Neither minister has seen fit to initiate that program. I have received hundreds of letters from constituents and municipalities opposing this legislation. The Ontario Municipal Recreation Association has many areas of concern with regard to Bill 119.

I support that the bill go to committee for full public hearings. Failing the minister's withdrawal of the bill, I hope to have the opportunity to participate in the hearings in committee.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. M. C. Ray): Are there any comments or questions? Are there other

participants in the debate? Does the minister care to wrap up the debate?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I am sorry I was not able to attend the debate yesterday, but I appreciate the comments made by the honourable members this afternoon. Actually, some of them were slightly irritating but I guess that is part of the game. In every case, they were well informed and I think they represent a view in the community that is substantial.

I thought it would be worth while to briefly point out some of the history of the Ontario Lottery Corp. I was sitting in this House, in opposition unfortunately, at the time the lottery corporation was formed. Frankly, I expressed my view at the time that I felt the money should go into the consolidated revenue fund and that the Legislature, under the direction of the government of the day, which was then a Conservative government, should decide how the money would be appropriately spent.

As a matter of fact, I do not often quote myself, but I will do so, from page 7277 of the February 4, 1975, Hansard:

"I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, that whether the bill directly earmarks"—the revenue—"or not, in my view I think it is a bad practice. I have read the bill and I feel that the so-called earmarking section is rather vague." I say in parentheses, that is section 9, the one we are asking the House to repeal.

To go on with the quote, which I highly recommend to the honourable members, "For my part, we might some time in the future feel we would like to spend the money on pensions for, let's say, defeated Tories or some such worthwhile project."

I thought it would be worth while to mention that. In searching for a rather weak comment, I in fact missed the point I was trying to make; that is, that while sports and recreation and cultural matters were supportable then and are certainly supportable now and will be in the future, particularly as these revenues grew, the government of the day, whatever political stripe it would have, should have the flexibility of recommending to the members of the Legislature alternative funding matters.

Certainly, there are those who have indicated that some of the money should go to special environmental programs, but the Minister of Health, who sits two seats to my right, can use almost any amount of money we can put into the system. It was my judgement that we ought to at least broaden the application of this source of revenue.

As to the allocation itself—I do not intend to be lengthy or to talk in too many figures—the very first year the Ontario Lottery Corp. was in business, its total revenue was \$42 million. Only \$4 million of all that money was allocated to culture, recreation and athletics. Since it was founded in 1975, there has never been a year when the government of the day—for most of those years, as I am sure members are all aware, it was a Progressive Conservative government—spent all the money in support of cultural, recreational and athletic endeavours.

This means that over these many years a surplus in the fund has been built up that is substantially in excess of \$1 billion: \$1.3 billion. Even this year, because the people of the province are buying tickets at the rate we are aware of, the net profit, after the expenses and the prizes are all paid, is just about \$500 million.

It so happens that we as a government have allocated, and we hope the Legislature will eventually approve, the expenditure of about \$100 million—actually it is closer to \$103 million—in support of the special programs that are mandated under the lottery corporation statute. In other words, even this year there will be close to \$400 million unexpended. That really means that the legislation, which I indicated away back in 1975 was vague in its allocation, has allowed this surplus, which in many respects is a notional surplus, to be built up.

No one in either opposition party suggested that \$1.3 billion be allocated to sports and recreation, particularly when there are such substantial needs in the community in addition to the \$100 million that we are spending on those prescribed sources of funding.

This bill is really an attempt to rationalize legislation that was flawed when it came before the Legislature in 1975. It is interesting, if you want to peruse the Hansards, that the NDP which was then the third party was quite deeply divided on this.

The late and lamented Jim Renwick, who was the conscience and intellect of the party then—never to have been replaced, as far as I know—was quite concerned about the earmarking of the revenues and indicated quite clearly that as far as he was concerned, the earmarking was not a good idea. He did not carry the day in caucus, but having a certain independence of spirit and strength of intellect and oratory, he was able to indicate that he was not fully on side. Since he is not here to correct the representation I am at present giving of what I inferred from his speech, I will probably let it go at that.

The point is that there were at least two intelligent members of the Legislature who were concerned about section 9, which we now recommend to be repealed, so in that sense I would say to the official opposition that I am speaking for my much-lamented good friend Jim Renwick when I tell them that when they vote against this bill, they are voting against the grand and intellectual basis the party at least used to have.

Instead of that, we get the kind of contribution we listened to from the member for Cambridge (Mr. Farnan), who I suppose was talking to the other members of the Legislature, but made no bones of the fact that he was competing with Edge of Wetness or whatever the soap opera is that may possibly be on the other channel in Cambridge.

The reason I was a bit concerned about it was that he made an impassioned plea for the little boys and girls out playing hockey after school with the idea that this bill would take the skates right off their feet. Of course, that is not true. While the \$100 million that is allocated for these purposes may not be sufficient in the eyes of the honourable member, it is a substantial contribution on behalf of the taxpayers.

This is the same member who spoke at the time of our efforts—that is, the efforts of this government, particularly of myself as Treasurer and the honourable Minister of Health—to bring some rationality to the funding of hospitals and at least move away from a deficit situation where there was no rationale or control at all; the same member who on behalf of the hospital in Cambridge that had a succession of deficits, indicated that we simply had to apply more money for the provision of hospital services.

This same member spoke passionately against the increase of any taxation. I would say to those same people—if there are any of them who watched him and may possibly be watching me on television—that I would simply ask—

Mr. Farnan: They turned them off.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: They turned them off.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Actually, I did hear a few of those channels change just a moment ago.

I just ask members to assess the rationality, not of the New Democratic Party which tends to be rational, but of the member for Cambridge who says that we must put all the money into recreation, that we must not put any of this money into hospitals. But we must put more money into hospitals and no taxes should be raised.

Frankly, I think the taxpayers and anybody in this House who wants to balance that kind of philosophy must realize that it really has little or no place in public discussion and should not be considered seriously by any members of this House or anyone else.

1700

I just want to say that the attempt in this amendment is to rationalize a funding basis that in my view has been flawed since 1975. I am not going to spend time talking about the morality of lotteries, the efficacy of lotteries or gambling as a fund-raising provision or mechanism for any government. We have it in this province and I cannot see that during my term as Treasurer, which I expect will extend for many years, this is going to be changed. As a matter of fact, the Ontario Lottery Corp. is doing its best to see that the revenues are maintained and in fact even grow.

I simply say to the honourable members that rather than removing the possibility of those people—it includes all of us interested in sports, recreation and culture—being adequately funded, we are putting the decision back where it should be in a democracy, and that is with the elected members of this House.

Mr. Farnan: The cabinet.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: All right. The member for Cambridge says “the cabinet.” It so happens that he does not support a party that commands a majority in this House. He may very well do that some day. God forbid, but that is a possibility and the democratic system works that way.

But for now, all of us, 130 members of this House, look at the proposals of the government of the day and we support them, criticize them, vote for them or against them. That is the way it is supposed to work. Nobody, not the doctors, not the hospitals, not the environment program, nothing, gets assured funding from the budget except the payment of the interest on the debt. That comes off the top and then we in our democratic responsibility decide how the money is going to be spent and how many taxes are going to support that particular expenditure program.

I just tell honourable members that while there are many intelligent people who say this move is not necessary because we can go on funding it just the way we have and allow this notional surplus to build up into even more ridiculous proportions, which I believe is undemocratic and inappropriate, under these circumstances at least the House will decide as it should and must on the proper allocation and disposition of public funds.

For anybody in the opposition party or any of my own colleagues who tries to be persuaded by interest groups in his own community that somehow we are cutting off the little kids and their skates and whatever that may be, well of course that is not true; we want to support them in every possible way.

There are a few professional golfers whom we are not in favour of supporting, but aside from that, I say to the erstwhile leader of the third party—meanwhile perhaps, something like that.

I simply ask for the careful consideration of the honourable members in this connection. I believe the bill is a rational one and worthy of support.

The Acting Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Vote stacked.

PERSONAL PROPERTY SECURITY ACT

Hon. Mr. Wrye moved second reading of Bill 151, An Act to revise the Personal Property Security Act and to repeal and amend certain other acts related to Personal Property.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I know this is the item the members have been waiting for all afternoon and perhaps for a couple of weeks. We will now begin to move through a revised Personal Property Security Act.

Rarely has any piece of legislation really received such extensive preintroduction and review as this bill. That has gone on over the last four and a half years. During that time, two reports from the Minister's Advisory Committee on the Personal Property Security Act were widely distributed to all interested groups, including the Consumers' Association of Canada. The considerable number of comments we received indicated there was broad support for the legislation before the House today.

The Personal Property Security Act is a key piece of legislation that provides rules to govern the rights of both a lender and borrower when personal property is used as collateral in a secured transaction. The revised act is intended to improve the system whereby secured lenders can protect themselves by recording notice of their security interest. As well, prospective lenders and purchasers can protect themselves by carrying out searches in the system.

In addition, significant amendments have been made to the registration provisions, including the introduction of a variable registration period and

the elimination of the requirement to register within 30 days. These amendments will make the registration system more flexible and remove some technical impediments currently faced by registrars.

The proposed bill also includes provisions to enhance consumer protection by providing some solutions to common problems now faced by both buyers and debtors. For example, registrations relating to consumer goods will have to be discharged within 30 days after a loan has been repaid. Under the current act, a consumer debtor had to give a secured creditor notice requiring that a discharge be made. Those consumer debtors were not aware of this requirement and therefore had difficulty selling their cars, for example, because registrations were not discharged. Buyers were misled into believing they were not getting clear title to their car.

Before buying a car, many consumers only do motor vehicle identification number searches. Under the current law, they cannot always rely solely on these searches because the number is required on a registration only when the vehicle is classified as consumer goods. They subsequently find out that they do not have clear title when the car is seized by a secured creditor, which is, as all members would know, an awful way to find out. Additional consumer protection amendments will solve this problem by ensuring buyers can rely on the motor vehicle identification number searches.

As members will recall, when the bill was first introduced in June 1988, the major change was the repeal of the Corporation Securities Registration Act. The intent of the repeal and other, complementary amendments is to integrate and clarify provincial law relating to security interest in personal property. No longer will we need a separate system, as we have now, for registering corporation securities when corporate assets are pledged as collateral.

The proposed legislation also includes the repeal of the Bills of Sale Act, which would help prevent a situation where a bankruptcy threatens to leave buyers high and dry. For example, members of the House will recall the case last year when boat buyers were prevented from taking possession of their boats after they paid for them in full but left them stored in a boatbuilder's yard. When that builder subsequently declared bankruptcy, a technicality in the law allowed the sales to be set aside. In effect, they lost their rights of ownership and it took several months of staff work and a great deal of concern on behalf

of those boat owners before we were able to resolve this matter.

I am sure members will agree that creditors, other commercial users and consumers will benefit from the streamlining of this legislation. In order to accommodate the proposed registration requirements, my ministry is redeveloping a computer system that will provide registrants and searchers with improved services.

There have been ongoing consultations and as a result of those consultations, which have continued even since the introduction of the bill in June of last year, I will be introducing a significant number of amendments, most of them of a housekeeping nature, in committee. They will reflect the results of those consultations with the interested parties. The most significant amendment will provide employees with protection for their vacation pay and pension contributions when their employer becomes bankrupt or insolvent.

I urge all members to support this legislation.

Mr. Farnan: The PPSA is increasingly important, particularly in our modern economy. When so many people are purchasing goods and items on instalment plans, there is concern both in terms of the security of the goods and the payment for the goods.

1710

Over the years, there has been a great deal of confusion with the Corporation Securities Registration Act and the Personal Property Security Act as to under which one of these acts consumers should register. I suppose the main thrust of what we are about today is that CSRA is repealed and eliminates a great deal of the confusion. I think we have to commend the government on that particular aspect of these bills. The only thing I would say is that this should have been done a long time ago, but better late than never.

Mr. Pope: Our party has been aware of the need for some time to make some improvements in the personal property security regime in Ontario. We are aware of the efforts of the minister resulting from the 1984 study that was done to bring this before the Legislature. We do believe that there are some elements of consumer protection in this bill which are improvements.

I guess the question is the consumer protection aspects. Will they be identical to the upcoming changes in the Consumer Protection Act that the minister has spoken of? Second, maybe the minister can indicate the involvement of the consumers' associations with respect to the drafting of this bill and input from that associa-

tion with respect to the principles of this new legislation.

Second, and I probably will deal with this at a later time, I am interested in the provision with respect to discharge of registrations. The minister is probably aware from examining sample printouts of the cluttering of someone's credit record and someone's security record by reason of undischarged liabilities which in fact have been paid in full.

What I am looking at is some guidance from the minister as to what steps are going to be taken by his ministry to remove some of that clutter from the securities record, which right now is affecting the ability of many individuals, partnerships and organizations and companies in the province to get credit and to enter into security agreements in an expedient way without going to quite a bit of expense, and second, how the minister is going to deal with the demand of some of the security registrants to have a fee paid prior to the discharge being registered or executed by the registering party.

I know the minister has examined these issues and no doubt his words or responses to these will be of some comfort to the people of Ontario who may be affected by some of this legislation.

In general terms, we understand the rationale for the changes that have been made and we know that the minister will be responding to specific questions as we go through this in committee.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Very briefly, I thank the honourable members and my colleagues from the two opposition parties for their support for this legislation.

The NDP critic is certainly correct in that it will streamline things to have a collapsing not only of the Bills of Sale Act but also the Corporation Securities Registration Act and will make matters easier for both business and consumers.

I say to my friend the member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope), in terms of the Consumer Protection Act, obviously any further consumer protection legislation which would be brought forward would be consistent with the kinds of initiatives that are contained in Bills 151 and 152.

I can tell the honourable member that the Consumers' Association of Canada, while it has not had membership on the ongoing advisory committee that has been chaired by Mr. Catzman, has been kept informed throughout of key initiatives as they have affected consumers, particularly the requirement of discharge within 30 days and other consumer initiatives, and is

certainly supportive, as I understand it, of all aspects of the legislative changes, which the honourable member points out do take matters forward and do provide additional protection for consumers.

In terms of the undischarged liabilities, if I can find the specific section, we can deal with that on clause-by-clause. But certainly the member makes a good point, one which I made in my second reading comments, about not just the cluttering up of files but certainly the very difficult situation it causes for consumers when a matter is not properly discharged. The new legislation ensures that will take place.

We will have some additional discussions, undoubtedly, on this matter as we move through our committee discussions on Bill 151.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for committee of the whole House.

REPAIR AND STORAGE LIENS ACT

Hon. Mr. Wrye moved second reading of Bill 152, An Act to revise and consolidate the Law related to Repairers' and Storers' Liens.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I am pleased also to present for second reading the Repair and Storage Liens Act. This proposed legislation has been again jointly developed by the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations and the Ministry of the Attorney General.

As we try to have leaner amounts and perhaps thinner amounts of legislation for people to deal with, I think certainly members of the opposition, all members of the House and members of the public will be pleased to know that this one act is really in many ways a consolidation, because it will result in the repeal of the Unclaimed Articles Act, the Warehousemen's Lien Act and the Mechanics' Lien Act. The bill modernizes and consolidates the law relating to repair and storage liens. Many of the provisions are based on the revised Personal Property Security Act that we were just discussing and are consistent with its provisions.

In many cases, the current law is unclear and vague, and it creates problems for repairers, those who store their goods, and customers. As well, no adequate procedures exist to resolve disputes concerning the repair and storage of articles. Under the current law, a repair or storage company has a lien for unpaid repair and storage charges as long as it holds on to the goods. These traditional possessory lien rights, as they are called, are preserved and they are codified. The proposed legislation provides for

the creation of a nonpossessory lien which will enable lien claimants to release an article but still retain a lien against it. Notably, this occurs in cases where articles are repaired on an owner's premises.

Priority disputes between lien claimants and other persons with interests in articles will be governed by rules set out in the bill. These nonpossessory lien claims will be registered in the personal property security registration system. Detailed procedures are established for the sale or retention of an article by lien claimants and for the redemption of an article by the owner or other persons, such as secured creditors, who have an interest in the article.

The bill also provides rules to enable an owner or any other person entitled to the article to recover possession where there is a dispute as to the price of the repair and storage services. As well, the courts have been given broad powers to resolve all matters that arise under the act.

Once again, I believe that with this bill, Bill 152, consumers, and in addition repair and storage companies of this province, will appreciate the action in modernizing an area of law. I urge members to give it support.

Mr. Farnan: The present law does create problems for repairers, storage owners and secured creditors, precisely for the reason the minister suggests, that it is unclear. It is very complex legislation, I have to admit. Basically, what I would say is that perhaps an effort is being made to unravel and find resolutions for some of the problems that have been experienced, but only time will tell.

There may indeed be additional fine-tuning that has to take place and this will come from experience. We will hope that the minister will—as indeed the opposition parties will—monitor the application and the experience that result from these particular changes and be open to amendments that might occur as a result of the experience with these changes.

1720

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Miller): Are there any comments or questions? Are there any other participants?

Mr. Pope: I appreciate the attempts of the minister to try to bring some order into this area of legal conflict which exists from time to time, to the bedevilment of the construction and repair industries and numerous other financial institutions in this province.

Maybe I could leave a question for the minister as to how he sees existing litigation in the Mechanics' Lien Act juxtaposing itself or insert-

ing itself into procedures contemplated under this legislation—particularly part III of this bill—and how he sees the provision of subsection 32(1), which gives the right to a lien claimant to come under the provisions of part III of this act although there is not necessarily an obligation to do so, resolving itself in the courts?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Let me just indicate that I thank the honourable members for their support and indicate to my friend the member for Cochrane South that he has asked a very specific question to which I want to give him a specific answer. Since there are a large number of amendments, I will give him a commitment that, as we move through the bill in committee of the whole House, we can deal with it at that time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for committee of the whole House.

House in committee of the whole.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Mr. Chairman, may I seek the consent of the House for the minister to take a seat in the front row and have the permission of the House to have the officials from the department join the minister on the floor?

Agreed to.

PERSONAL PROPERTY SECURITY ACT

Consideration of Bill 151, An Act to revise the Personal Property Security Act and to repeal and amend certain other Acts related to Personal Property.

The Deputy Chairman: May I first ask each of the parties the sections to which they wish to address comments, questions or amendments. First, the government.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Mr. Chairman, we have a large number of amendments which I believe the chair has and which have certainly been shared for some time with the opposition critics. But if you would like me to run through them, we have amendments to section 4, section 20, section 25, section 28, section 30, section 33, section 49, section 51, section 52, section 56, section 59, section 65, section 67, section 68, section 76, section 78 and section 81.

The Deputy Chairman: There are two amendments to section 28?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I apologize. In a number of cases, having noted that we had one I just moved along, so in a couple of cases there is more than one amendment to a section. You have all of

those amendments. They have not changed since they were delivered to the desk yesterday.

The Deputy Chairman: From section 65 on, could you just run it past me again?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Certainly; section 65, section 67, section 68, section 76, section 78 and section 81.

The Deputy Chairman: Thank you. The opposition parties? No amendments? Very good.

Sections 1 to 3, inclusive, agreed to.

Section 4:

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. Wrye moves that subsection 4(1) of the bill be amended by adding the following clause:

“(aa) to a deemed trust arising under any act, except as provided in subsection 30(7).”

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Very briefly, the intent of the amendment is that the Personal Property Security Act will not apply to trusts created by statute except for the special priority given to employees’ deemed trust. This amendment ensures that other statutory trusts are not affected.

Motion agreed to.

Section 4, as amended, agreed to.

Sections 5 to 19, inclusive, agreed to.

Section 20:

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. Wrye moves that subclause 20(2)(a)(ii) of the bill be amended by striking out “this” in the fourth line and inserting in lieu thereof “the.”

Hon. Mr. Wrye: It is simply a typographical error.

Motion agreed to.

Section 20, as amended, agreed to.

Sections 21 to 24, inclusive, agreed to.

Section 25:

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. Wrye moves that clause 25(1)(a) of the bill be struck out and the following substituted therefor:

“(a) continues as to the collateral, unless the secured party expressly or impliedly authorized the dealing with the collateral.”

1730

Mr. Pope: Can I ask a question?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Do you want me to explain?

Mr. Pope: No, I just want to ask the minister what “impliedly authorized” means. If there is no express authorization, what constitutes the “implied authorization” which would allow this provision to kick in?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: The use of the word "impliedly" indicates it could be through a verbal agreement reached in discussions between the parties.

Motion agreed to.

Section 25, as amended, agreed to.

Sections 26 and 27 agreed to.

Section 28:

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. Wrye moves that subsection 28(4) of the bill be struck out and the following substituted therefor:

"(4) A purchaser of collateral that is an instrument or negotiable document of title has priority over any security interest therein perfected by registration or temporarily perfected under section 23 or 24 if the purchaser,

"(a) gave value for the interest purchased;

"(b) purchased the collateral without knowledge that it was subject to a security interest; and

"(c) has taken possession of the collateral."

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Just very briefly, this amendment actually is a fairly simple one. It deletes any reference to shares and moves that reference to newly created subsections 6 and 7, which I will be moving next.

Motion agreed to.

The Deputy Speaker: Mr. Wrye moves that section 28 of the bill be further amended by adding the following subsections:

"(6) A bona fide purchaser of a security, whether in the form of a security certificate or an uncertificated security, who has taken possession of it, has priority over any security interest in it perfected by registration or temporarily perfected under section 23 or 24.

"(7) A purchaser of a security, whether in the form of a security certificate or an uncertificated security, who purchases the security in the ordinary course of business and has taken possession of it, has priority over any security interest in it perfected by registration or temporarily perfected under section 23 or 24, even though the purchaser knows of the security interest, if the purchaser did not know the purchase constituted a breach of the security agreement.

"(8) For the purposes of subsections (5) and (6), 'bona fide purchaser,' 'purchaser,' 'security,' 'security certificate' and 'uncertificated security' have the same meaning as in sections 53 and 85 of the Business Corporations Act, 1982."

Hon. Mr. Wrye: The effect of these amendments is that when bankruptcy or insolvency occurs, financial institutions and brokerage firms which routinely acquire interest in shares and

take possession of them will rank ahead of secured creditors which register under Bill 151. The only exception will occur when financial institutions and brokerage firms are aware that their purchase of an interest in the shares breaches an agreement between the owner and the secured creditor who is registered.

This is an amendment which, as I understand it, was worked on, and we came to agreement, which really clarifies the intent and meaning of the earlier sections which we have moved out and replaced with the new subsections 6, 7 and 8.

Motion agreed to.

Section 28, as amended, agreed to.

Section 29 agreed to.

Section 30:

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. Wrye moves that section 30 of the bill be amended by adding the following subsections:

"(7) A security interest in an account or inventory and its proceeds is subordinate to the interest of a person who is the beneficiary of a deemed trust arising under the Employment Standards Act or under the Pension Benefits Act, 1987.

"(8) Subsection 7 does not apply to a perfected purchase-money security interest in inventory or its proceeds."

Hon. Mr. Wrye: This provision is in keeping with case law, which was determined first in the Windsor Packing Co. case. I think members will be aware of the case law which began with that case and protects the interests of employees in both their vacation pay benefits and their pension benefits.

Motion agreed to.

Section 30, as amended, agreed to.

Sections 31 and 32 agreed to.

Section 33:

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. Wrye moves that clause 33(2)(b) of the bill be amended by inserting "purchase-money" before "security" in the second line.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Very briefly, this is a housekeeping amendment which simply clarifies the intent of the legislation.

Motion agreed to.

Section 33, as amended, agreed to.

Sections 34 to 48, inclusive, agreed to.

Section 49:

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. Wrye moves that section 49 of the bill be amended by striking out "period that the registration of a financing

statement is effective" in the second and third lines and inserting in lieu thereof "registration period of a financing statement."

Hon. Mr. Wrye: A few words in the opening part of the section have been changed to clarify that an amendment can be made to a registration at any time during the registration period. Frankly, the wording as we now have it really locks us in and makes us unable to make the changes within the registration period; this simply gives us the flexibility that we need.

Motion agreed to.

Section 49, as amended, agreed to.

Section 50 agreed to.

1740

Section 51:

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. Wrye moves that section 51 of the bill be struck out and the following substituted therefor:

"51(1) A financing statement may be registered for a perpetual period or for such period of years as is set out in the financing statement.

"(2) The registration period of a financing statement may be reduced by the registration of a financing change statement under section 49 or extended by the registration of a financing change statement under subsection 52(1).

"(3) The registration period for a financing statement begins with the time assigned to its registration by the registrar or branch registrar and ends on the earlier of,

"(a) the time the registration is discharged; or

"(b) at the end of the registration period as set out in the financing statement or as changed by subsequent financing change statements.

"(4) A financing statement is effective only during its registration period.

"(5) Despite subsection (1), a financing statement that indicates that the collateral is or includes consumer goods shall be deemed to have a registration period of five years, unless a shorter registration period is indicated on the financing statement or unless the registration period is extended by the registration of a financing change statement under subsection 52(1).

"(6) Every financing change statement extending the registration period of a financing statement described in subsection (5) shall be deemed to extend the registration period for a five year period that begins at the time of its registration unless a shorter extension is indicated on the financing change statement."

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Believe it or not, all of that really ensures that the method by which we

calculate the registration period is compatible with the new computer system which is going into effect under the amended act.

If I can offer the House an explanation, the first reading version of the section required that the extended registration period be set out on a renewal form. The new computer system, however, only allows the number of years by which the period is extended to be set out on the form. The original registration period was three years and the period was then extended by four years. The number 4 will be set out on the form.

Motion agreed to.

Section 51, as amended, agreed to.

Section 52:

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. Wrye moves that subsection 52(1) of the bill be amended by striking out "renewed" in the second line and inserting in lieu thereof "extended."

Hon. Mr. Wrye: This is simply a small drafting change. It is a housekeeping amendment.

Motion agreed to.

Section 52, as amended, agreed to.

Sections 53 through 55, inclusive, agreed to.

Section 56:

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. Wrye moves that subsection 56(6) of the bill be amended by striking out "changes" in the third last line and inserting in lieu thereof "damages."

Hon. Mr. Wrye: This simply corrects a typographical error.

Motion agreed to.

Section 56, as amended, agreed to.

Sections 57 and 58 agreed to.

Section 59:

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. Wrye moves that subsection 59(5) of the bill be amended by striking out "clause (1)(a)" in the first line and inserting in lieu thereof "subsection (1)."

Hon. Mr. Wrye: We are correcting a cross-reference error. It is simply a housekeeping amendment.

Motion agreed to.

Section 59, as amended, agreed to.

Sections 60 to 64, inclusive, agreed to.

Section 65:

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. Wrye moves that subsection 65(2) of the bill be amended by striking out "(c)" in the last line and inserting in lieu thereof "(d)."

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Again, we are simply correcting a cross-reference.

Motion agreed to.

Section 65, as amended, agreed to.

Section 66 agreed to.

Section 67:

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. Wrye moves that clause 67(1)(f) of the bill be amended by striking out "subject to subsection (3)" in the first line.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: The amendment simply deletes an unnecessary clause in the bill.

Motion agreed to.

Section 67, as amended, agreed to.

On section 68:

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. Wrye moves that subsection 68(4) of the bill be amended by striking out "six" in the fifth line and inserting in lieu thereof "10."

Hon. Mr. Wrye: The amendment allows an additional four days for the deemed receipt of notices or documents by registered mail. It is a more realistic time period for the delivery of registered mail.

Motion agreed to.

Section 68, as amended, agreed to.

Sections 69 to 75, inclusive, agreed to.

Section 76:

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. Wrye moves that subsection 76(1) of the bill be struck out and the following substituted therefor:

"(1) except as otherwise provided in this part, this act applies,

"(a) to every security agreement made on or after the day this section comes into force; and

"(b) to every security agreement made on or after April 1, 1976 if the security agreement was one to which the Personal Property Security Act, being chapter 375 of the Revised Statutes of Ontario, 1980, applied immediately before the repeal of that act.

"(1a) except as otherwise provided in this part, this act does not apply,

"(a) to a security agreement to which a prior law applied at the time of its making, including any advance or extension of credit, delivery of services or other event occurring pursuant thereto whether before or after this section comes into force; or

"(b) to a transfer of chattel paper or an account, other than a transfer of a book debt, made before the coming into force of this section which does

not secure payment for performance of an obligation."

Hon. Mr. Wrye: This amendment adds an additional clause to clarify that Bill 151 does not apply to a sale of a chattel mortgage or lease or accounts, other than accounts receivable, which will occur before Bill 151 is proclaimed. It really adds an inadvertent omission and completes a section.

Motion agreed to.

The Deputy Chairman: I should at this point interrupt to indicate that we have an outstanding order to take divisions at 5:45 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I have two more amendments in a very long list. We could complete this in another couple of minutes if the opposition members were not to notice the clock.

Agreed to.

Section 76, as amended, agreed to.

Section 77 agreed to.

Section 78:

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. Wrye moves that subsection 78(12) of the bill be amended by adding at the commencement thereof "subsection 30(6) and."

Hon. Mr. Wrye: This is simply again a housekeeping amendment which puts back in a cross-reference inadvertently omitted on first drafting.

Motion agreed to.

Section 78, as amended, agreed to.

Sections 79 and 80 agreed to.

Section 81:

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Members will be glad to hear the last of the amendments to this bill.

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. Wrye moves that section 81 of the bill be amended by adding at the commencement thereof "Except as provided in subsections 78(7) and (12)."

Hon. Mr. Wrye: This is another housekeeping amendment. This is an exception clause that ensures there is no conflict between this section and section 78, which contains the transitional rules for corporation securities which were registered under the Corporation Securities Registration Act.

Motion agreed to.

Section 81, as amended, agreed to.

Sections 82 to 86, inclusive, agreed to.

Bill, as amended, ordered to be reported.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Wrye, the committee of the whole House reported one bill with certain amendments.

Mr. Speaker: It now being the appropriate time, I believe a number of votes have been stacked.

We will deal first, of course, with the vote on Bill 122, An Act to amend the Retail Sales Tax Act. I remind the members that the bell can be for a maximum of 30 minutes.

1804

RETAIL SALES TAX AMENDMENT ACT

The House divided on Hon. Mr. Grandmaître's motion for third reading of Bill 122, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes

Ballinger, Beer, Black, Brown, Callahan, Campbell, Caplan, Carrothers, Cleary, Collins, Conway, Cooke, D. R., Dietsch, Eakins, Elliot, Elston, Epp, Faubert, Fawcett, Ferraro, Fleet, Fontaine, Fulton, Furlong, Grandmaître, Haggerty, Kerrio, Keyes, Kozyra;

Leone, Lipsett, Lupusella, MacDonald, Mahoney, Matrundola, Miller, Morin, Neumann, Nicholas, Nixon, J. B., Nixon, R. F., O'Neil, H., Oddie Munro, Phillips, G., Poole, Ramsay, Ray, M. C., Reycraft, Riddell, Roberts, Smith, E. J., Sola, Sorbara, South, Stoner, Tatham, Ward, Wong, Wrye.

Nays

Brandt, Breaugh, Bryden, Charlton, Cooke, D. S., Cousens, Cunningham, Eves, Farnan, Grier, Hampton, Harris, Johnson, J. M., Kormos, Laughren, Martel, McLean, Morin-Strom, Philip, E., Pope, Pouliot, Reville, Sterling, Villeneuve.

Ayes 59; nays 24.

WATER TRANSFER CONTROL ACT

The House divided on Hon. Mr. Kerrio's motion for third reading of Bill 175, which was agreed to on the same vote.

AGGREGATE RESOURCES ACT

The House divided on Hon. Mr. Kerrio's motion for second reading of Bill 170, which was agreed to on the same vote.

Bill ordered for standing committee on general government.

**ONTARIO LOTTERY CORPORATION
AMENDMENT ACT**

The House divided on Hon. R. F. Nixon's motion for second reading of Bill 119, which was agreed to on the same vote.

Bill ordered for standing committee on general government.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Conway: For the interest, I know, of all House members, tomorrow, March 2, we expect to conclude this session of the 34th Parliament. The House leaders and whips have been working diligently over the last number of days to prepare a full agenda. The House will begin tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock with committee of the whole House on Bill 152 and we will proceed through a variety of other matters. We hope to conclude the day with His Honour's address of prorogation, hopefully about this time tomorrow.

The House adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

ERRATUM

No.	Page	Column	Line	Should read:
122	6826	1	13	member's Bill 191.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*
(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

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- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
 Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breaugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)
 Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health (Orillia L)
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)
 Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)
 Cousins, W. Donald (Markham PC)
 Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC)
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)
 Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)
 Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)
 Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A., Speaker (Perth L)
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)
 Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet and Minister of Financial Institutions (Bruce L)
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)</p> | <p>Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)
 Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)
 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)
 Grandmaitre, Hon. Bernard C., Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)
 Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)
 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)
 Hošek, Hon. Chaviva, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)
 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)
 Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L)
 Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G., Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L)
 Kormos, Peter (Welland-Thorold NDP)
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)
 Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)
 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)
 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)
 Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)
 MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)
 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)
 Mancini, Hon. Remo, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)
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 Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP)
 Matrundola, Gino (Willowdale L)
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 McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)
 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)
 McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)
 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)
 McLeod, Hon. Lyn, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)
 Miclash, Frank (Kenora L)</p> |
|---|--|

Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)
 Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)
 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)

Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier and Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics (Brant-Haldimand L)

Oddie Munro, Hon. Lily, Minister of Culture and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)

O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Quinte L)

O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)

Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)

Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government Services (Ottawa Centre L)

Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)

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Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)

Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)

Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)

Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)

Rae, Bob (York South NDP)

Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional Services (Timiskaming L)

Ray, Michael C., Deputy Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Windsor-Walkerville L)

Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)

Reycraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)

Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and Food (Huron L)

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Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)

Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)

Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General (St. George-St. David L)

Smith, David W. (Lambton L)

Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General (London South L)

Sola, John (Mississauga East L)

Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour (York Centre L)

South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)

Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)

Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)

Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)

Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)

Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)

Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)

Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry PC)

Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of Education (Wentworth North L)

Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)

Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio (Dufferin-Peel L)

Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)

Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy (Fort York L)

Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)

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Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment

Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General

Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and Food

Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs

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O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and Recreation

Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community and Social Services

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Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations

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 Hošek, Hon. Chaviva, Minister of Housing
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 Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government Services
 Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship
 Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy
 Mancini, Hon. Remo, Minister without Portfolio
 Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio

PARLIAMENTARY ASSISTANTS

Ballinger, William G.: assistant to the Minister of Natural Resources (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles: assistant to the Minister of Education (York North L)
 Brown, Michael A.: assistant to the Minister of Mines (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
 Cordiano, Joseph: assistant to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Lawrence L)
 Faubert, Frank: assistant to the Minister of Revenue (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
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 Smith, David W.: assistant to the Minister of Correctional Services (Lambton L)
 South, Larry: assistant to the Minister of Energy (Frontenac-Addington L)
 Sullivan, Barbara (Mrs.): assistant to the Minister of Labour (Halton Centre L)
 Velshi, Murad: assistant to the Minister of Citizenship (Don Mills L)

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Administration of justice: chairman, Mr. Callahan; vice-chairman, Mr. Chiarelli; members, Messrs. Farnan, Hampton, Kanter, Mahoney, McGuinty, Offer, Polsinelli, Runciman and Sterling; clerk, Deborah Deller.

Finance and economic affairs: chairman, Mr. D. R. Cooke; vice-chairman, Mr. Pelissero; members, Messrs. Cleary, Ferraro, Haggerty, Ms. Hart, Messrs. Kozyra, Mackenzie, McCague, Morin-Strom, and Pope; clerk, Todd Decker.

General government: chairman, Mr. Elliot; vice-chairman, Mr. Faubert; members, Ms. Bryden, Messrs. Callahan, Charlton, Cordiano, Cureatz, Fleet, McLean, Ruprecht and Sola; clerk, Franco Carrozza.

Government agencies: chairman, Mr. McLean; vice-chairman, Mrs. Marland; members, Messrs. Ballinger, Breaugh, Miss Martel, Messrs. Miller, J. B. Nixon, Miss Roberts, Messrs. Runciman, South and Velshi; clerk, Deborah Deller.

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Carrothers, Charlton, Cousens, Henderson, Mrs. LeBourdais, Messrs. Lupusella, MacDonald, Philip and Pollock; clerk, Franco Carrozza.

Public accounts: chairman, Mr. Philip; vice-chairman, Mr. Pouliot; members, Messrs. Adams, Ballinger, Ms. Collins, Mr. Cousens, Mrs. Fawcett, Miss Martel, Miss Nicholas, Messrs. J. B. Nixon and Villeneuve; clerk, Douglas Arnott.

Regulations and private bills: chairman, Mr. Furlong; vice-chairman, Mr. Lipsett; members, Messrs. Keyes, Kormos, Leone, McCague, Miclash, Pollock, Reville, Smith, and Sola; clerk, Tannis Manikel.

Resources development: chairman, Mr. Laughren; vice-chairman, Mr. Wildman; members, Messrs. Black, Brown, Dietsch, Mrs. Grier, Mrs. Marland, Mr. McGuigan, Mrs. Stoner,

Messrs. Tatham and Wiseman; clerk, Lynn Mellor.

Social development: chairman, Neumann; vice-chairman, Mrs. O'Neill; members, Messrs. Allen, Beer, Carrothers, Mrs. Cunningham, Messrs. Daigeler, Jackson, R. F. Johnston, Owen and Ms. Poole; clerk, Todd Decker.

SELECT COMMITTEE

Education: chairman, Ms. Poole; vice-chairman, Mr. Reycraft; members, Messrs. D. S. Cooke, Furlong, Jackson, R. F. Johnston, Keyes, Mahoney, Miclash, Mrs. O'Neill and Mr. Villeneuve; clerk pro tem, Tannis Manikel.

*The alphabetical list of members appears in each issue. The other lists, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard in the first and last issues of each session and on the first sitting day of each month.

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No. 156

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



First Session, 34th Parliament
Thursday, March 2, 1989

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, March 2, 1989

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

House in committee of the whole.

REPAIR AND STORAGE LIENS ACT

Consideration of Bill 152, An Act to revise and consolidate the Law related to Repairers' and Storsers' Liens.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Mr. Chairman, with the concurrence of the opposition, I would like permission to move down to the front row, to have a table brought on to the floor and to have staff brought on to the floor during this discussion in committee of the whole.

Mr. Chairman: Please go ahead. I am sure that would be agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: To facilitate matters, while the table is being brought out, perhaps you want to know the amendments that I have to this.

Mr. Chairman: Yes, I would like to list them at this moment.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: We could run through them. I have an amendment to section 1. I have a number of amendments to section 10, three in total. I have one amendment to section 14, two amendments to section 17, five amendments to section 24 and amendments to sections 27, 30 and 31.

Mr. Chairman: Do other members wish at this moment to list proposed amendments and, if so, to which section? Any from the third party? If not, we have the complete list of proposed amendments.

Section 1:

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Wrye moves that the definition of "repair" in section 1 of the bill, exclusive of the clauses, be struck out and the following substituted therefor:

"'Repair' means an expenditure of money on, or the application of labour, skill or materials to, an article for the purpose of altering, improving or restoring its properties or maintaining its condition and includes."

Hon. Mr. Wrye: This is a housekeeping amendment. It corrects a grammatical error in the definition of "repair."

Motion agreed to.

Section 1, as amended, agreed to.

Sections 2 to 9, inclusive, agreed to.

Section 10:

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Wrye moves that clause 10(3)(a) of the bill be struck out and the following substituted therefor:

"(a) the end of the registration period as set out in the claim for lien or as extended by the most recent change statement registered under subsection (4) or reduced by a change statement registered under subsection (7)."

Hon. Mr. Wrye: This amendment reflects changes made to section 51 of Bill 151, on which we concluded clause-by-clause yesterday, and ensures consistency with the method by which the effective period of a registration is calculated by the replacement computer system we talked about. That was that long amendment, I say to my colleagues, that we did yesterday afternoon, which essentially captures the necessary change for the new personal property security computer system. I want to make sure members understood that.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Wrye moves that subsection 10(5) of the bill be struck out and the following substituted therefor:

"(5) A change statement may be registered to record an assignment of a nonpossessory lien where a claim for lien has been registered."

Hon. Mr. Wrye: This corrects a drafting error and now reflects that a nonpossessory lien is assigned rather than a claim for lien.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Wrye moves that subsection 10(7) of the bill be struck out and the following substituted therefor:

"(7) Unless the information related to a claim for lien has been removed from the central file of the registration system, a change statement may be registered at any time during the registration period,

"(a) to correct an error or omission in a claim for lien or any change statement related thereto; or

"(b) to amend a claim for lien or any change statement related thereto where the amendment is not otherwise provided for in this part."

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Again, this change reflects an amendment which was made earlier to section 49 of Bill 151, which relates to modifying any part of a registration at any time during the registration period.

Motion agreed to.

Section 10, as amended, agreed to.

Sections 11 to 13, inclusive, agreed to.

Section 14:

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Wrye moves that section 14 of the bill be amended by adding thereto the following subsection:

"(6) The lien claimant is liable to any person who suffers damages as a result of a seizure under subsection (1) if the lien claimant has entered into an agreement for payment of the debt to which the claim for lien relates and there has been no default under the agreement."

Hon. Mr. Wrye: This change clarifies that a lien claimant with a nonpossessory lien who arranges the seizure of the repaired or stored goods in breach of any agreement with the owner will be liable for the damages suffered.

Motion agreed to.

Section 14, as amended, agreed to.

Sections 15 and 16 agreed to.

Section 17:

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Wrye moves that subsection 17(2) of the bill be amended by striking out "60" in the third line and inserting in lieu thereof "30."

Hon. Mr. Wrye: The amendment reduces the time period for objections to foreclosure by a lien claimant, to be consistent with the equivalent time period in Bill 151. It simply gives us more consistency in both pieces of legislation.

Motion agreed to.

1010

Hon. Mr. Wrye: The second amendment is really to accomplish the same thing.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Wrye moves that subsection 17(4) of the bill be amended by striking out "60-day" in the second line and inserting in lieu thereof "30-day."

Hon. Mr. Wrye: The same explanation.

Motion agreed to.

Section 17, as amended, agreed to.

Sections 18 to 23, inclusive, agreed to.

Section 24:

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Wrye moves that subsection 24(9) of the bill be amended by inserting after "sheriff" in the fourth line and in the fifth line "or bailiff" in each instance.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: This corrects an inadvertent omission. We have added the reference to bailiffs because a seizure of goods is carried out by a bailiff in small claims court.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Wrye moves that section 24 of the bill be amended by adding thereto the following subsection:

"(9a) Before obtaining a writ of seizure, the applicant shall file an affidavit with the clerk or registrar of the court confirming that the respondent has not released the article as required."

Hon. Mr. Wrye: This amendment will protect court clerks and registrars from liability by ensuring that they can rely on an affidavit before issuing a writ of seizure.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Wrye moves that subsection 24(10) of the bill be amended by inserting after "sheriff" in the third line "or bailiff."

I presume the same explanation, Minister.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Wrye moves that subsection 24(12) of the bill be amended by inserting after "sheriff" in the second line "or bailiff."

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: I feel like an auctioneer.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: This is the last amendment to section 24, Mr. Chairman. This will take a little longer, so you can kind of catch your breath.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Wrye moves that subsection 24(13) of the bill be struck out and the following substituted therefor:

"(13) The charge upon the money paid into court or the security posted with the court is discharged 90 days after the article was returned to the applicant or seized unless, before the end of the 90 days, the respondent has accepted the applicant's offer of settlement or has commenced an action to recover the amount claimed.

"(14) Upon the expiry of the 90 days referred to in subsection (13), the clerk or registrar of the court may return to the applicant the money paid into court and deliver up for cancellation any security posted with the court if the applicant files with the clerk or registrar an affidavit confirming that the respondent has neither

accepted an offer of settlement nor commenced an action to recover the money claimed.

"(15) The respondent is liable for the costs of enforcing a writ of seizure and these costs shall be set off against the amount paid into court under this section."

Hon. Mr. Wrye: This rather lengthy amendment protects court clerks and registrars from liability by ensuring that they can rely upon an affidavit before returning to an applicant money paid into court or any security that has been posted. It also ensures that an applicant is given a means of recovering the cost of seizing an article when a lien claimant has unreasonably refused to return an article when required to do so. If members would like an example, I can give one, but I will pass at this point.

Motion agreed to.

Section 24, as amended, agreed to.

Sections 25 and 26, inclusive, agreed to.

Section 27:

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Wrye moves that clause 27(2)(b) of the bill be amended by striking out "sixth" and inserting in lieu thereof "10th."

Hon. Mr. Wrye: This is the same amendment as we had in Bill 151. It refers to allowing 10 days for the deemed receipt of registered mail.

Motion agreed to.

Section 27, as amended, agreed to.

Sections 28 through 30, inclusive, agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Wrye moves that the bill be amended by adding the following section:

"30a. (1) A sheriff acting under a direction to seize an article or a writ of seizure, or a bailiff acting under a writ of seizure, may use reasonable force to enter land and premises if the sheriff or bailiff believes, on reasonable and probable grounds, that the article to be seized is there and reasonable force may be used to execute the direction or writ.

"(2) A sheriff acting under a direction to seize an article or a writ of seizure, or a bailiff acting under a writ of seizure, in respect of an article in a dwelling shall not use force to enter the dwelling or execute the direction or writ except under the authority of,

"(a) the order of a court of competent jurisdiction, in the case of a direction to seize an article;

"(b) the order of the court that issued the writ, in the case of a writ of seizure.

"(3) A court may make an order for the purposes of subsection 2 if, in the opinion of the court, there is reasonable and probable grounds

to believe that the article to be seized is in the dwelling."

Hon. Mr. Wrye: The new section clarifies the powers of sheriffs and bailiffs to seize articles and it also provides for limitations. It provides that a court order is required to use force to enter residential premises.

The amendment is consistent with rules set out in section 19a of the Execution Act.

Motion agreed to.

Section 31:

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Wrye moves that section 31 of the bill be amended by adding thereto the following clause:

"(f) prescribing the types of security that may be deposited with a court under section 24."

Hon. Mr. Wrye: This amendment will assist applicants and court officials by providing for the regulations to set out the types of security that may be deposited in a section 24 application—for example, a letter of credit.

Motion agreed to.

Section 31, as amended, agreed to.

Sections 32 to 38, inclusive, agreed to.

Mr. Harris: I just have one question. Does anybody in the chamber completely understand this particular bill?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Certainly not you, but many of us do.

An hon. member: Alan Pope would.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: And, of course, I do.

Mr. Chairman: I presume your question has been answered.

Mr. Harris: I think it has been answered, that the staff understand this very complicated piece of legislation. I will be very brief, but I might say this is a very technical, complicated piece of legislation.

Given that after a bill like this is passed, it then goes on to regulations that are developed behind closed doors and nobody gets a look at or ever gets to see or ever gets to comment on them—I do not want to be negative, but we know that is how regulations are developed—I ask that the minister be cognizant of legislation like this and that time be taken to meet with the parties that are going to be affected by this piece of regulation to make sure that the regulations, as they are developed, do not cause more problems than they try to solve.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: If I might just very briefly, I do not want to unduly delay the House but I want to assure the House leader for the third party that

this bill came forward after consensus was reached with really all of the parties involved in this very technical area. I want to assure the honourable member, sensitive as I was, having gone through innumerable briefings on both Bill 151 and Bill 152 in terms of the bills and the amendments, that was why we offered very specific briefings substantially in advance of these bills coming to the House to both opposition critics. I am certainly well aware of the very technical nature of these pieces of legislation.

Bill, as amended, ordered to be reported.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Conway, the committee of the whole House reported one bill with certain amendments.

1020

SMOKING IN THE WORKPLACE ACT

Hon. Mr. Sorbara moved second reading of Bill 194, An Act to restrict Smoking in Workplaces.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I am going to try to keep these comments as brief as possible, but I want to say that it really is a pleasure to be able to speak to Bill 194 and to see that the member for Carleton (Mr. Sterling) is here and will be, I think, offering some comments as well.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Fresh from Europe.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: And looking very fresh indeed, as the government House leader points out. We like to see that. It is not reflected in the faces of all his colleagues.

With Bill 194, as in many other areas of public policy, Ontario really is again in the forefront of the development and implementation of innovative and progressive legislation. I think we should all be very proud of Bill 194 in that regard, because it is a unique initiative which has really no parallel in any other province.

When this bill was first introduced on November 30, 1988, Greg MacDonald, who is the director of public affairs for the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, was quoted as saying, "The trend towards a smokeless environment is already here in Ontario." With Bill 194, we in Ontario are placing ourselves in the lead in that regard.

All will recognize that the real impact of this bill is to reduce in a very significant way the extent to which people do smoke in workplaces. On the surface, the bill appears to be a small and readily understandable piece of legislation, but really, it has quite a dramatic impact. The issue it addresses is an important one for all Ontario workers. With the introduction of the legislation,

the government has said in effect that smoking is not really a right. At least, it is not a right when it affects the comfort and wholesomeness of other people's working environment.

After it is passed and proclaimed, workers will be able to go to their places of employment and do their jobs in a cleaner and, I suggest, healthier atmosphere. As a regulator, the government of Ontario has an obligation, I believe, to enact legislation which will ensure uniform, minimum standards which govern conditions of work in all places of employment under provincial jurisdiction throughout Ontario.

Bill 194 is, as I said earlier, unprecedented in any other province in its establishment of minimum standards prohibiting workplace smoking. The provisions of this legislation will be enforced by inspectors authorized under the Occupational Health and Safety Act. This means that some 3.9 million workers in 233,000 of Ontario's workplaces will enjoy the coverage of this legislation. That, by the way, is 90 per cent of Ontario's workplaces.

I think it would be appropriate to congratulate those employers, trade unions and municipalities that have worked to establish the principle of smoke-free workplaces in their own jurisdictions. Bill 194 builds on those individual achievements. It is the commonsense, practical approach of Bill 194 which will make it widely accepted and easily implemented.

The central provision of this legislation is that no smoking is to be the general rule in Ontario workplaces. Bill 194 establishes a general prohibition on smoking in the workplace but does allow the employer the option—and I reiterate, the option—of establishing designated smoking areas. These, however, are restricted under the legislation to a maximum of 25 per cent of the floor space of the work area; that is, the enclosed workplace.

Furthermore, and I know my friends in the Legislature will be interested in this, if employers choose to designate smoking areas, then they are required under the act to consult with the joint health and safety committee, or, if there is none, with the worker health and safety representative, in establishing the designated areas for the purposes of the legislation.

I believe it is important to note that in keeping with the flexible and practical approach taken by Bill 194, the legislation does not require the prohibition of smoking in areas of a workplace in which the public is served. This includes such workplaces as restaurants, bars, hotel lobbies,

outdoor work areas, vehicles and the residential complexes of such facilities as detention centres.

Instead, the regulation of smoking in public places will continue to be, as it has for some time now—and I know my friend the member for Carleton understands this—in the hands of municipalities. Some 60 municipalities now regulate smoking in public places and have demonstrated a willingness and ability to do so. There is clearly no reason for the province to step into that area where it is not needed.

The acknowledged effect of tobacco smoke upon our health demands that consistent standards be established from one end of this province to the other, in order to effectively regulate this particular form of workplace irritant. Smoking is a major cause of ill health, disability and premature death. These effects of tobacco smoke are well known to all of us. When one considers both the health and quality-of-life impact of smoking, whether in the workplace or otherwise, there is little wonder as to why smokers have become a minority, consisting of about 30 per cent of adult Canadians.

This general acknowledgement of the health consequences of smoking among both smokers and nonsmokers, as well as the increasing evidence which demonstrates the linkage between secondary tobacco smoke, or environmental tobacco smoke as it is sometimes referred to, upon the health of nonsmokers, has given rise to new concerns and demands for restrictions on smoking in the workplace. As a result, workplace smoking restriction policies have become quite commonplace.

Indeed, in a number of businesses I visited in my capacity as Minister of Labour, I noted the workplace parties themselves have undertaken an examination of their workplaces, and, in very many instances, have determined on their own to implement a smoke-free workplace policy, which is entirely consistent with Bill 194 or will be consistent with the bill when it is passed.

I do not want to take up too much more of the Legislature's time on this bill. I know we have a very busy agenda both this morning and this afternoon. I want to conclude my remarks by saying I believe the bill is a significant step forward towards a smoke-free society and I am pleased to have the support of the Canadian Cancer Society, which recently wrote to me and said that Bill 194 was "a positive step towards the goal of making all workplaces smoke-free in the province of Ontario."

In order that the workers of Ontario may soon enjoy the protection offered by this legislation, I

ask the members of this House to give Bill 194 their support.

1030

Mr. Mackenzie: I am pleased to rise on Bill 194. My comments will be brief and to the point.

I might say it is long past time that we recognized the question of the effect of this toxic substance, secondhand smoke, on workers and on the citizens of the province. I do not think there is really any debate or argument any more as to the harmful and ill effects, even among those who might acknowledge that there may be some satisfaction in being able light up a cigarette, cigar, pipe or what have you.

However, I am a little bit concerned with the rather flamboyant defence of the bill the minister has just given us, because I think there are some shortcomings in the legislation. That is not to say that we will not support this bill, but if the minister thinks it is good legislation and its time is overdue, we hope he is also going to be willing to take a look at some of the weaknesses in Bill 194.

First off—I have said this before and have not heard a defence against it from the minister—this bill has been introduced without any real consultation with many of the interested parties. I am talking about the trade unions that represent workers in the workplace and the Non-Smokers' Rights Association, and I suspect that there has not been the kind of consultation there should be for a number of reasons.

The bill is fundamentally flawed. Both the Ontario Federation of Labour and the NSRA treat cigarette smoke as a toxic substance. The main provisions of Bill 194 to limit smoking to a maximum of 25 per cent of a workplace will do nothing to remove toxic substances and the dangers posed by secondhand smoke. It might reduce it, but it is not going to remove it.

The bill does avoid requiring employers to establish designated smoking areas that are properly ventilated. I think that is a major fault in the bill. Obviously the government here does not want to add to the expense of the employers' operations. That is a perennial theme when we are trying to break new ground with progressive legislation in this province.

The requirement is essential, and obviously that is one area where we are going to want to take a look at an amendment to the bill. Incidentally, it is a demand of some of the interested stakeholders, whether it is the OFL or the NSRA. It is a key component of the city of Toronto bylaw on smoking in the workplace and

was part of Lynn McDonald's federal bill, C-204.

The bill does not make provision for smoking cessation programs, nor does it have a phase-in period. The bill also provides for fines for noncompliance of not more than \$2,000 for employers and individual workers. In the first case, the fine is not a deterrent, and in the second case I would suggest it is discrimination.

I think this obviously lays out the areas where we want to see improvements in this bill. I am hoping that this government has a bit of an open mind—I am finding it difficult in many pieces of legislation these days—and will look at establishing designated smoking areas that are properly ventilated and are identified by both the joint health and safety committees, with the cost of any needed renovation to be borne by the employer; having the employer provide for cessation programs; having a phase-in period to be determined in consultation with the Non-Smokers' Rights Association, the OFL and other interested stakeholders, and to reduce fines on individual workers and increase the penalties for employers.

I think the bill is of such fundamental importance, it is a major social policy for Ontario. We acknowledge that. We appreciate the fact that the bill is before this House and that the minister has decided to open up debate on this issue. Because it is of such major social consequence to this province, we think the interested parties—and there are a number of them—should have some input into the bill. Certainly we are looking forward to the hearings, to the reaction of government members in terms of fundamental amendments—not such major ones but ones that may be a little difficult in some cases and that have some real meaning—and to various groups having a chance to have their say.

I might say that the kinds of amendments we would like to take a look at are part of the nonsmokers' rights groups' feelings about the bill. They are certainly part of the OFL reaction to the bill; they are certainly part of the Physicians for a Smoke-Free Canada position on this particular bill. All of them are supportive, as I have indicated we are, but with the understanding that there are some real flaws in the bill. Let's have a chance in this major social policy field to take a look at what amendments we can convince the government to take a look at in this particular legislation.

Having said that, I think it states fairly clearly, and without a lot of rhetoric, the position that we will be taking on this legislation, and I do

commend these suggestions to the minister and the other members in this House.

Mr. Sterling: As many members of this Legislature may know, I have had a passing interest in this issue. In fact, I think my first bill was introduced in December 1985, some three years and a couple of months ago, with regard to controlling smoking in the workplace and public places, some time before it became a popular issue even at the federal level. I hope that I have had some small part in urging the government to take this action at this time.

I want to congratulate the minister on taking this step and hope that he will look forward to committee hearings, which I understand we will have on April 17 as agreed between the House leaders, when this bill is referred to the standing committee on social development. I hope that he will have a positive and open mind to constructive suggestions as we go through those particular hearings.

This morning I talked with Dr. Lynn Kozlowski of the Addiction Research Foundation. I had met Dr. Kozlowski some time ago on a television program and thought I would touch base with him and indicate to him that we would be debating this bill this morning in the Legislature. He has produced, in the last month, an interesting paper for the Journal of the American Medical Association. As you know, the Journal of the American Medical Association is a very prestigious medical publication in the United States. He has produced what I think is an extremely interesting and important piece of research.

I wanted to indicate to the Legislature some of the results of that particular report. Up to this time we have talked about the detrimental health effects of tobacco, in that we know from Statistics Canada that, as a result of tobacco smoke, each day 35 to 40 people in Ontario die prematurely by about seven to seven and a half years as a result of inhaling and the detrimental effects of tobacco. Even during this period of time that we are talking in the Legislature maybe one or two persons will die prematurely by seven to seven and a half years because of addiction to tobacco.

Dr. Kozlowski talks about the urge to smoke and the addiction to tobacco. People who have come to the Addiction Research Foundation to seek help with regard to alcohol and drug problems were asked, and this included a sample of some 1,000 individuals, how great their urge and addiction to tobacco really was. It is interesting that some 56 to 57 per cent of the people who had come to the Addiction Research

Foundation for alcohol and drug purposes said they would have a greater time kicking the habit of tobacco than they would have of kicking the drug or alcohol problem. That shows how deep the addiction to this particular substance and the urge to continue with it are.

Even of those who were addicted to heroin, some 31 per cent said their urge for tobacco was as strong as their addiction to heroin. I think this particular study shows that we are not dealing with a habit or a socially accepted custom. We are dealing with an addiction, an addiction which will cause early death. It is a very serious problem. Therefore, I do congratulate the minister in taking one small step to try to alleviate this problem.

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I have said over a period of time when I have spoken on this subject that the problem of addiction to tobacco and the detrimental health effects of tobacco have to be approached in a number of areas because there are a lot of people in society who are affected by this. Those of us who have tried to show some leadership in attacking this particular problem and in trying to deal with this problem have indicated in the past that one step is not enough to deal with the whole problem.

I think it would be important for this government to set out a series of goals which it should put forward as its mandate in dealing with this problem. I would like to put forward my goals in dealing with this problem so that we can have a healthier Ontario in the future.

The first goal I think we should have in dealing with tobacco is to keep those who are not presently using tobacco and are not addicted to tobacco from taking on the habit of smoking. I see many young people in the public gallery opposite me here today. Unfortunately, most people in our province become addicted to tobacco before they reach the age of 18. Therefore, it is most important that we talk to our young people and say to them: "Look, if you want to die seven and a half years earlier than you would normally die, then take up tobacco. If you want to take the chance of injuring your child when you smoke during pregnancy, then you should take up tobacco. And if you want to cause a great deal of potential for pain and suffering during your 40s and 50s, then take up tobacco." Our first goal should be to prevent, and we should aim our forces at the young people to stop them from taking up the habit.

The second goal, and the goal which we are dealing with primarily today, should be to protect

those who do not smoke from the hazards of secondhand smoke. This piece of legislation deals with controlling smoking in the workplace. I will mention some specifics with regard to this piece of legislation and where I see it falling short of achieving that goal. I hope that we will be able to change this legislation through debate and through the committee process.

The third and last goal that we should have is to try to help, through understanding of this terrible addictive substance, those who are addicted to tobacco to try to get off of that substance. We have not been able to tell people of the problems or we have not gotten through to these people as to how they can do that. As I indicated in terms of this latest research, we have to understand that those people who are addicted to tobacco cannot just walk away from that habit without some significant help, and I do understand the problem that people have in doing this.

I might add that this government is not taking an adequate role in educating the public as to the ill effects of tobacco. They have not taken an active role in helping many associations like the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario, the Canadian Cancer Society—Ontario Division and many other groups in educating the public as to what in fact is needed to get people to get off the habit.

An interesting fact, whether we would like it or not, is that people at various educational levels react to smoking in different ways. Statistics Canada shows that if you have a university degree, then there is only a 20 per cent chance that you are a habitual smoker. If you have finished high school, then there is a 35 per cent chance that you are a habitual smoker. If you have passed grade 8 and you have not completed high school or completed a substantial portion of high school, then there is a 50 per cent chance that you are a habitual smoker.

That tells me that those people who are perhaps reading material with regard to the detrimental health effects of tobacco are drawing a logical conclusion and trying to get off it, but those people who are less likely to pick up a newspaper and read the columns with regard to the detrimental effects of tobacco are not taking action and therefore a greater number of them are smoking.

I am talking in general categories. I am not saying that everyone who only has a grade 8 education is necessarily a smoker. We are talking about statistics which the Canadian government has produced and which show that the message is

not getting across to those people who need the help most.

We must take a number of corrective actions in order to meet these three goals. One of the things we have failed to do, in my view, is address the problem that tobacco producers and the workers involved with producing these particular products might have. We have had a great deal of social upset with the people who are producing tobacco and our governments have not reacted in a positive enough manner to this particular problem. We should be in a position to compensate tobacco producers. We should be in a position to retrain tobacco producers, whether they are working in the field or in the plant.

We have to put greater emphasis, as I said before, on education of our public, not only in terms of written articles but we should produce facts so that people who are watching television or listening to the radio learn the facts about this very detrimental substance which will affect their health in a very detrimental manner.

We must recognize how to help addicted smokers get off the habit if they in fact choose to do that. Therefore, I was pleased that the government introduced some help for Ontario civil servants to get away from the habit in terms of supporting some programs which would help a smoker quit. I would hope that they might encourage other members who work in the private sector to get off the habit as well.

Of course, we have legislation at the federal level dealing with the controlling of advertising and I support stricter controls with regard to the advertising of tobacco.

I have introduced a bill with regard to controlling the sale of tobacco to minors. Right now the control of sale of tobacco to minors is a joke in our province. We had a recent situation where Boots Drug Stores Ltd., which sells \$2 billion worth of consumer goods a year, was fined the grand sum of \$25 in court for selling tobacco to minors. What kind of a disincentive is that for any retailer to stop selling tobacco to minors in the future? Business will continue as usual, whether or not it is Boots Drug Stores or any other kind of drugstore. Boots Drug Stores should not be singled out; I believe that it is trying to control the matter, but I believe also that the present law is a bit of a joke.

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Lastly, we come to situations where we must control the environment indoors with regard to smoking, both in public places and in the business place or in the place of work. That is what we are dealing with today in Bill 194. As

the minister knows, I have introduced two different bills dealing with this problem. Bill 157 allows municipalities to make bylaws which would be much more restrictive than Bill 194. It has received second reading in this Legislature and I hope will eventually receive third reading in this Legislature to allow other municipalities across this province to take the same progressive steps as the city of Toronto, the city of Etobicoke and the city of Markham have the right to take now.

I would say, in a constructive manner as best I can, that I would like to suggest to the minister a number of problems that we have with his existing Bill 194. Bill 194 requires that an employer designate at least 75 per cent of the workplace as a nonsmoking area. That means that up to 25 per cent could be designated as a smoking area. One of the great problems that is identified in this bill is that there is no need to provide separate ventilation between a smoking area and a nonsmoking area. I hope to illustrate that in a more dramatic way in a few moments.

This problem has been identified by a number of groups. I suspect that on April 17 and the days following that we will hear from a number of groups with regard to the problems that that could lead to, but I would read from page 2 of a letter from the Hamilton Regional Cancer Centre, affiliated with the Ontario Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation, which was written to the minister. I believe he has also quoted from that letter, which in some ways congratulates the minister for bringing forward this piece of legislation. I acknowledge that and would not read the other parts of the letter without indicating that.

I would point out to the minister that on page 2 of their letter, which he has of course received, dated December 14, 1988, there is very strong evidence to suggest that confining smoking to 25 per cent of a large office or shop floor would be almost indistinguishable from having no smoking restriction at all. Therefore, with respect to the bill indicating that only 25 per cent of the area would be smoking, there is some feeling with this group and other groups that that would eventually not change anything from what the status quo is at the present time.

I think the more important part comes when we read from a copy of a letter which I have received, dated January 6, 1989, from the Canadian Tobacco Manufacturers Council. These are the people who are selling tobacco to our people in Ontario. It is signed by William Neville, its president. This is directed to the

director of human resources, directed to the people who take care of employee relations in offices and plants across the province.

This is the penultimate paragraph, the second to last paragraph: "The bill currently before the Ontario Legislature proposes to compel you, your business and your staff to conform to a set of one-size-fits-all directives. We hope this brochure"—and there is an enclosed brochure—"will offer you some thought-provoking information and some interesting management alternatives."

In the brochure, it indicates in one portion: "Encourage two or more employees sharing the same office space to work out their arrangements. Failing that, each employee might be given the right to designate a circumference from where he or she sits according to his or her individual preference."

In other words, the way the Canadian Tobacco Manufacturers Council and every group that I have heard is interpreting this piece of legislation is to give this piece of legislation the same kind of impact and the same kind of shenanigans that we have seen on the TV program, WKRP in Cincinnati.

I do not know if members ever watched that, but if they remember Les Nessman, he was a radio announcer who was concerned about the fact that he had to sit in an office with three or four other people and he was not given his own, separate office. Therefore, Les Nessman drew a line along the floor where his office wall should be.

What the Canadian Tobacco Manufacturers Council is suggesting is that Bill 194 should perhaps be named after Les Nessman. What we should have is a Les Nessman bill, because what the Canadian Tobacco Manufacturers Council is suggesting is that if my seatmate over here happens to be a smoker or if this fellow happens to be a smoker, then what we do is put a line of tape down the floor between us.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Put that tape over your mouth and we can end this debate.

Mr. Reycraft: Would you send that roll over with a page when you're finished with it?

Mr. Furlong: You didn't have to do both sides, one was enough.

Mr. Sterling: In this case, this is a smoking area but this is a nonsmoking area, and I am supposed to be protected from smoke from these two particular individuals.

Mr. Mahoney: You should be protected from your colleagues.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: No, that is protecting you from the third place Tory party.

Mr. Sterling: I have upset the Minister of Labour by showing so graphically the faults with regard to this particular portion of the bill. But we will be insisting, during the committee hearings, that if in fact there is to be a division between a smoker and a nonsmoker, there must be a wall or some separate ventilation to protect me, the nonsmoker, from the secondhand smoke of my fellow worker.

I hope that after we have had the proper hearings with regard to this particular bill, the minister will see the fallacy with regard to this whole matter and we will not, as Les Nessman has been awarded, have to award the minister the Golden Sow Award for not seeing the fallacy of Bill 194 with regard to separate ventilation.

There is another problem. The member for Durham Centre (Mr. Furlong), who is actually shorter in stature than myself, has always blamed the stunt in growth on the fact that he was a former smoker, and I accept that. Unfortunately, I did not smoke before and I have no excuse at all for the size of my stature.

1100

Another problem we have with regard to Bill 194 is that it does not guarantee a nonsmoker a clean environment in his workplace. While consultation must take place and it should take place, if the employer makes the decision that even I as a nonsmoker must work in the smoking area, then that is the way it must be according to Bill 194. In all of the legislation I have been associated with before, such as the legislation in the city of Toronto, if a nonsmoker is aggrieved at the fact that he is not able to work in a smoke-free environment, then he has the final say. Therefore, that will be something we will insist upon when we deal with this legislation.

Second to last, I would like to indicate to the Legislature that I believe this bill is in some ways too arbitrary. If everyone within a working establishment smokes and does not object to second-hand smoke, then I do not see any reason only 25 per cent should be designated as a smoking area. You may say that might be odd coming from a person advocating nonsmoking rights, etc., but the fact of the matter is that if all the people in a particular workplace smoke—I am thinking of small working places of maybe two or three individuals—and if they all are not concerned about second-hand smoke, I do not understand why this legislation should override their desires.

That is the beauty of the present municipal legislation that is in place in the city of Toronto and will be probably in place in the town of Markham and the city of Etobicoke.

Finally, I would like to say that within this bill under subsection 10(2), it says, "Nothing in this act prevents a municipality from passing bylaws respecting smoking in workplaces." I am happy that particular section is in place because last November this Legislature passed Bill 157, a bill I introduced in this Legislature, which would allow the right of every other municipality in Ontario to pass workplace smoking bylaws.

I hope the minister will allow each and every other municipality, at its option, to have the same rights the city of Etobicoke, the city of Toronto and the town of Markham now enjoy. Therefore, I ask him that we go with Bill 194 and try to improve that legislation, but that he also see that the government calls Bill 157 for third and final reading so that other municipalities might take more restrictive action, as the city of Toronto has, in dealing with this whole issue.

In wrapping up, our party will support this legislation. We look forward to constructive hearings in the standing committee on social development beginning April 17. We will be putting forward constructive amendments to this legislation.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. M. C. Ray): Are there any comments or questions? Are there other participants in the debate? Does the Minister of Labour wish to wrap up the debate?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I do. I enjoyed the comments of both members. The member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie), for some unknown reason, suggested there were major structural problems within the bill. We are going to review those remarks within the ministry.

We are particularly going to review his remarks of the member for Carleton. I am going to ask officials within my ministry to look at those comments very carefully, and I will tell the members why. The member for Carleton really has made this issue something very near and dear to his heart. He has participated in the democratic process in a sterling way, if I might say that, and has brought this issue to the Legislature not so much in the form of a bill; he has registered disagreements.

In the political and democratic processes and in the way in which we conduct ourselves, I think he can take a good deal of the credit for the fact there is a government bill before this Legislature now that will certainly go a long way in reducing the extent to which there is smoking in the

workplace and will restrict greatly the amount people smoke in the workplace.

I want to thank both the member for Carleton and the member for Hamilton East for their comments and for what I hope will be their support of the bill. I look forward to hearing their further comments when the bill is in committee. I fully expect that when the debate is over and the bill is read for a third time, given royal assent and proclaimed into law, we will be regulating our workplaces in a far more effective and appropriate way, recognizing that those who prefer to work in an atmosphere free of smoke will be able to do so under this bill.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for your time and consideration, and for the consideration of the House in this matter.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for standing committee on social development.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Conway moved second reading of Bill 212, An Act to amend the Legislative Assembly Act.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I want to make some very brief opening comments with respect to Bill 212, the purpose of which is to raise the indemnities and allowances payable to members of the Legislature under the Legislative Assembly Act for this year just ending, the fiscal year 1988-89, by 4.7 per cent.

As I said earlier, I want to make just a couple of comments by way of explanation because I know honourable members will recall the debate of a little over a year ago. I was reviewing the debate of January 7, 1988, when we last discussed this matter of the pay and allowances to members of the Legislature. It was indeed a lively debate at that time. I can well remember the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. B. Rae) and the leader of the third party expressing their concern about the process.

I made a commitment at that time on behalf of the government to review the process, with a view to finding an alternative to the annual bills we will debate here this morning in respect of the salaries and allowances paid to both the members of the Legislature as members of the Legislature and to those members who also serve on the executive council.

I want to say that we have had over the last number of months—my friends the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. D. S. Cooke) and the member for Carleton (Mr. Sterling), as members

of the House leaders and whips panel will know from their participation at that level—a number of discussions as to alternatives to this annual debate, where members must stand in this chamber and address a bill or a set of bills raising their pay.

The Leader of the Opposition said some time ago—it was January 7, 1988—that he found this to be an invidious position and I agree it is not perhaps the most comfortable position, but I want to say that as we looked at alternatives over the last several months, it was quite clear we could not find a better way.

We looked long and hard. I want to say to my friends that it was with some interest that I watched the debate in Congress over the last few weeks when the often-held-up better alternative of an exterior commission having charge of this kind of responsibility was shown to be, in its own way, very inadequate. There was no debate in Washington quite like the debate over that exterior commission that was recommending to the United States pay raises for members of Congress and members of the federal judiciary, a pay raise increase I think in the order of 51 per cent. It ignited a nationwide debate.

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Mr. Speaker, as you are from that very important border city of Windsor, I am sure you would know from reading the *Detroit Free Press* just how galvanized public opinion became in the United States over the idea that Congress was simply going to routinely increase its pay by 51 per cent because some commission had recommended it as a good idea. As I remember, members of Congress did not approve that increase and it produced no little bit of tension on Capitol Hill.

We looked at a number of alternatives. We are joined by my friend the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris), the distinguished House leader for the third party. He came to me with one particular model that we looked at with some care.

I certainly have been in favour—I make no bones about it—of some kind of escalator that would remove the requirement for the annual bill. I want to say that we do not have the annual escalator in these two bills, Bill 212 and Bill 213, because my friends in the opposition have said, “We are not prepared to have an escalator that is attached to what we believe is an inadequate base.”

I respect their views in that connection, but I want it to be clear that when it was argued last year that we should look at a new process, we did look at a number of alternatives. The government

was and is quite prepared to accept and build into the process an annual escalator. We were not, however, able to resolve the question of the base salary among our three parties.

The government has felt we must show leadership in this connection. We have said it is very difficult for us to stand in Windsor, Pembroke or North Bay and tell people who are out there working in the public sector, particularly people who have made a very passionate argument that their base pay rates are not as they would like them—I am thinking, for example, of the home care workers in my county who have come to me and said, “We just do not think you are being adequately sensitive to our income needs.” I can appreciate why they would feel that way. The members opposite have made a very compelling argument on their case, as have many of my colleagues in the government caucus.

When we, as an executive council, looked at the whole question of the base salary for members, we considered a number of alternatives. One alternative that was looked at—I want to be perfectly frank—was accepting the most recent recommendation of the Commission on Election Finances, so ably headed by the very distinguished former member for York South and a long-time leader of the New Democratic Party of Ontario, Donald MacDonald. That recommendation, made some time ago, was that the base rate should be increased from where it is now, from about \$39,200 to \$45,000. That one alternative was looked at with a great deal of care.

We looked at another alternative—I do not mean to speak out of turn but I think my friend the member for Nipissing would well remember the discussion—where we looked at the current system, long developed over the decades in this chamber, where the members’ pay is a matter both of base salary and nontaxed expense allowances. We looked seriously at what is called the grossed-up alternative, taking all the current base salary, which is taxed, and the nontaxed allowances and folding those into one grossed-up salary, all of which would be taxable. That was looked at very carefully and had its proponents and its detractors.

In the end, we have decided that while we are prepared to incorporate an escalator to eliminate the annual introduction of the pay bill—I want to be clear about that; the government is and has been quite prepared to offer that escalator—we have decided that the mix of base salary and expense allowances ought to be maintained as they are and that they should be adjusted this year

by essentially the rate of inflation, which these bills suggest as 4.7 per cent.

I do not mean to suggest that is the rate of inflation, but essentially the principle cabinet approved was that the current regime of base salary and allowances should be maintained and that we should apply something like the inflation index to that for this year, 1988-89.

I know this is not going to meet with unanimous approval. I know it is of ongoing concern to a number of members, quite frankly on all sides, but I must say the government has felt that when all things are considered, the rates of pay are not unreasonable.

I do not know any of us who ever feels he is fully compensated for the amount of time and effort we expend, and I do not just mean as members of the Legislature, I say to my friend the member for Carleton, who prior to coming to this chamber 12 years ago was, as few people I know are, both a professional engineer and a lawyer. My lawyer friends always tell me, "The tariff just doesn't fully compensate me for all the work I must put forward in favour of my clients." I have even heard engineers, I say to my friend the member for Carleton, say something of the same. I know there are many people who feel their compensation package is not as full as they would like it and that is understandable.

I must say in concluding my remarks that we feel, as a government, that 4.7 per cent on both the base salary and the allowances is reasonable. It does reflect the cost-of-living indices we have seen in this province over the past year, to a very large extent at any rate.

I point out again that some of the alternatives were very carefully canvassed. The government is prepared to accept the escalator, but we recognize that honourable members opposite have very strong views about the kind of base to which that escalator might apply and we have left that, unfortunately, unresolved because we could not come to a meeting of minds.

I point out again, on the basis of the very spirited debate in the United States over the last month, that the alternative of the exterior commission as a better way has been shown to be, in my view, something that is not necessarily a better way.

I will conclude my remarks by saying again that we think, as a government, that this is fair and reasonable. We know it is not perfect. We know there will be some concern and complaint, but at the end of the day we feel we must show leadership to the province. People in the public sector and outside look to this government, look

to this Legislature for leadership by example. We feel that this is a good example and that it is not unreasonable in so far as the compensatory considerations are concerned.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I will be very brief because I have certainly learned that on this particular subject, whether you are brief or whether you are short, the results are always the same when it comes to the Premier (Mr. Peterson) making a decision on the members' pay for all 130 members.

I think Liberal backbenchers in particular should understand that this has not been a very democratic or acceptable process. It really has boiled down to the fact that one person has made a decision on what kind of pay increase all the members of the Legislature are going to get. There have been negotiations going on since last January when we discussed the original bill in the Legislature. We received a commitment at that time from the government House leader and from the Premier that negotiations would occur.

The three House leaders met, I believe it was last February, over a year ago, to begin the examination of alternative processes and what the proper base pay could be in this place. Then a number of months went by and nothing happened. Finally, the leaders of the parties got together a number of weeks ago and put to the Premier a proposal for some alternatives.

1120

I understand that a government party is obviously concerned about raising members' pay substantially, because of the possible political consequences. The Leader of the Opposition—and the leader of the third party, I believe, was agreeable—offered either to move the bill or to second the bill with the government House leader or the Premier, as a method of expressing very clearly to the people of this province that the entire Legislature was in agreement, that all three political parties and all three political leaders were willing to take any credit or any blame that would result from the setting of a proper wage for members of the Legislature. After several weeks of consideration, the Premier said, "No, the increase is going to be 4.7 per cent."

I think one of the frustrations the opposition parties have is the reality that more than 80 per cent of the members in the Liberal caucus get some additional pay. They get the basic pay, they get the expense allowance and then they get some other pay, whether it be a parliamentary assistant's money, a committee chairman's pay or whatever. The amount of money that the Liberal backbenchers have to live on is quite different

from what the majority of the opposition members have.

The vast majority of our members and the members of the Conservative Party have the basic pay and expense allowance and that is it. There is no additional money, except for a few of us who have some specific responsibilities within our caucus. There is not the pressure on the Liberal caucus to see that there is proper pay, because most of its members are receiving substantially more than ordinary members in the Legislature who are in the opposition parties.

The government House leader is correct when he explains that there was an automatic escalator offered to the opposition parties. But I am sure that most Liberal backbenchers would agree with the position that the opposition parties have taken, that it would be ludicrous to put an automatic escalator in the pay package when the commission's recommendation, which has been in front of us for several years, for the second half of a major reform, a major increase—recommended, I believe, either in the late 1970s or early 1980s—has never been implemented.

There was a recommendation a number of years ago for a \$10,000 increase in our pay packet. The former Premier, Mr. Davis, implemented the first half of that, the \$5,000, and the Commission on Election Finances has been recommending every year since that the second half be implemented. That has not been done, so we are obviously not prepared to have built into the process an automatic escalator which would mean that there would never be a reopening of the pay discussions in the Legislature. At least the way it is now, as unacceptable as it is, there will be an automatic annual review and the members of the Legislature will at least have the opportunity to make their views known about the inadequacy of our pay package in this place.

The other thing, and I guess the final point, is that there were some substantial changes, and the commission certainly recognized that, when the conflict-of-interest legislation was passed. Members do not have the luxury or ability to freely invest and make money elsewhere outside of the Legislature. There are many more restrictions. There is public disclosure now. I think it is all very, very important and very good for all members of the Legislature to be participating in the conflict-of-interest legislation.

However, if we are to allow people and encourage people and have a process that allows people from all areas of society to participate in the Legislature and to consider running for office, for the Legislature, and if people are

going to be restricted as to what they can make outside of this place, then obviously we have to have a pay package that is adequate, that offers some incentive to people to run for this office.

Certainly at the rate of pay we have now there is not that kind of incentive for large numbers of people, considering the hours that are put in and the stress that comes with the job. Also, obviously, a lot of rewards come with the job, but it is a stressful, time-consuming job that is up for review every four years. There is very little job security in this job.

I think that is another major reason the government should have considered implementing the second half of the election finances commission report and then we could have built in the automatic escalator. Once we have a decent base, then I think the automatic escalator and taking it out of the hands of the Legislative Assembly itself would have been an appropriate thing to do.

Under the current circumstances, I think we have a very unsatisfactory process. We have an unsatisfactory base pay, one that is not keeping up with the cost of living, which has not received the proper adjustments in the last number of years. I guess we can only express our disappointment. We cannot do anything else about it. Eventually, it is up to Liberal backbenchers getting their point across to their Premier and to their government that they want to see changes and perhaps we will see those changes next year or the year after.

It is frustrating again in that the person who makes the major decisions on this matter really does not have to worry about his income from the Legislature, because the income that the Premier earns at the Legislature is a very small amount of money indeed in terms of his personal financial resources. Many other members of the Legislature have to rely totally on their income from the Legislature. They are not like the Premier. Basically, the money he makes here is spending money compared to his private resources.

I think as long as the Liberal backbenchers let the Premier, who is a millionaire, make the decisions on pay packages for ordinary members of the Legislature, then this inadequate level of pay for members of the Legislature is going to continue. We will not be supporting this bill.

Mr. Harris: I will be brief. We will be voting against this particular piece of legislation.

I do not want to get into any of the specifics or any of the details or any of the behind-the-scenes, supposedly private discussions that took place. I want to simply say this: A year ago we expressed

concern about the process. We expressed concern that there ought to be a better way than members of this assembly year after year after year voting themselves whatever the increase is.

We argued at that time. My leader spoke and the leader of the New Democratic Party spoke and said that there are mechanisms in place that work in the private sector, there are mechanisms in place that work in the public sector, we have a government that is committed to some pay equity legislation that requires an independent look and review of what people are worth in their jobs, and this is now a full-time job. This is now something that ought not to be an onus on the government to bear responsibility for and ought not to be an onus on individual members year after year to come in and say, "We vote ourselves a raise."

Whether you vote yourself one per cent or 500 per cent, in my view, in this day and age of full-time politicians, that is wrong. There are the Hay system methods, there are many methods; so we wanted and we raised a little fuss a year ago, saying that we would like some meaningful, intelligent discussion on how we remove this from the process.

The government did not want to do that. I acknowledge there were some discussions that went on, although not the kind of discussions we particularly wanted to have, because the government said, "No, we will not allow it to go out to an independent commission, we will not allow an independent body, we will not allow that, we want to carry on in the same old way," and there were some behind-the-scene discussions on that.

Second, the one aspect that the government House leader really wanted to talk about in those negotiations was this inflation indexer. He mentioned it five or six times in his speech. My party is opposed to automatically indexing to inflation in many, many areas. I think it is wrong. I do not care what the base is; I am not in favour of an automatic inflation indexer. I reject that outright.

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I am in favour of some method of relating our salary through an independent commission, which would be my first choice, or some independent body, to some other salary that may be out there. Some will say that that salary will undoubtedly go up and that will, in effect, be some form of indexer. That may be very true. On the other hand, that other salary will have had an independent look at it. It may go up or it may go down. If there is a fair evaluation, if that is the method that is determined, then so be it; that is fair and that indeed is where we should be.

I think this would be 100 per cent totally wrong for this Legislature. In both opposition parties, we could argue about whether we felt the base was right. The main concern we had was that the process was not right, and we are opposed. Both parties oppose having an automatic indexing inflationary mechanism for our own salaries at the same time as my party, in any event, is not prepared to offer that to all of industry, to all of Ontario. It is the type of automatic indexing that we feel encourages inflation.

There are far fewer impediments in the way of government, if everything is just going to be automatically indexed, to control costs and to control inflation, to control those things. That is not a principle that my party espouses. That is not a principle that we are comfortable with. What a terrible example it would set to all of industry, to all of the public sector employees we have who must negotiate from time to time. They have a process. They have a mechanism we do not have if we say, "Our mechanism is just an automatic inflation indexation."

I do not know why the government House leader brings that part up and tries to indicate how great it was. We think that is a terrible, terrible example to set for this province. We are totally opposed to that, so I do comment on that one part of it. We are against the process. We think it is continuing on. We have an indication from the government that this is the way it plans to do it for ever and a day.

I do not want to get into the argument of how it was done for 42 years. I want to tell members that we think we should be looking forward. We should be reflecting the role of the Legislature. We should be looking at the changes that have evolved over the last 10 or 15 years. We should be taking a look at how that role has changed and how some of the remunerations like the expense allowance have in fact perhaps outlived their usefulness.

Those are some of the specifics, but it is the process. We think somebody other than those of us who are directly involved should be taking a look at it and assessing it. We will oppose this particular piece of legislation.

Mr. Sterling: As I have spoken out publicly in my own community on this particular matter and have not shied away from making my position clear, I thought I should say a few words today in terms of this issue.

The problem that we have with regard to Bill 212 and Bill 213 is that it perpetuates a system which is not only unfair but I think leads to a weak parliamentary system, a system in which

members of the provincial parliament must not only come here and listen to logical debate, but also have in jeopardy the financial security of their families when making decisions on policy and whether or not they should speak out on behalf of their constituents from time to time.

I note that of the 94 Liberal government members in this Legislature who were elected as Liberals, 78 of them, 83 per cent of the Liberals, are receiving additional indemnities. Who decides whether they should receive an additional indemnity? One man, the Premier, and the Premier of the province is not only—

Mr. Ballinger: Boy, you've got a short memory, Norm.

Mr. Faubert: You did when you were in government.

Mr. Sterling: I hear them chirping. I hear all the fellows who are on the take. I hear them. They are all on the take, receiving extra money here in this Legislature, all chirping up with regard—

Mr. Faubert: Not on the take. Knock it off, Norm. You are losing any support you ever had.

Mr. Sterling: I am not going to get support for this, because I know Liberal members are all going to fall in behind the Premier.

Mr. Faubert: "On the take" is really inappropriate. You should apologize for that.

Mr. Sterling: Whatever the member wants to call it.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Sterling: There are 78 of the 94 Liberals presently in this Legislature who are receiving additional indemnities. I apologize for saying "on the take," because it is quite within the realm of this Legislature to do that. I apologize for that.

Notwithstanding that, the problem we have now is that we have a situation where not only is the Premier controlling the Legislature in terms of his powers as Premier—what he can persuade members of his caucus to do, what he can persuade this particular Legislature to do—but also he is dealing with the financial security of the members of provincial parliament and how they should react and behave with regard to their own constituents back home.

To say that one member of this Legislature is worth \$52,000 or \$53,000 and another member of this Legislature is worth \$82,000 or \$83,000 is a significant power for the Premier to have. It is a power which, I am afraid, has led to a lack of substantial debate in this Legislature from time to time. We have seen evidence of that over the last year and a half.

We have not seen members of the government side stand up in the Legislature and differ even one degree off the course of where the government might be, which is uncommon when we speak with regard to other British parliamentary systems.

Mr. Ballinger: Where were you 10 years ago?

Mr. Sterling: Some of the members talk to me about where I was 10 years ago. I did speak up in this Legislature and differed from time to time with regard to my government at that particular time.

Mr. Ballinger: On salaries?

Mr. Sterling: The member for Durham-York (Mr. Ballinger) perhaps does not understand the particular point that I am trying to put forward, but the situation is such that, as we increase the indemnities, as well as increasing the base salary for MPPs, we are making the gap grow wider and wider between what those ministers would receive and what normal MPPs receive. Therefore, what we have is a situation where we are putting more and more power in the hands of the Premier to quell any debate with regard to any of his policies.

Another point that should be made at this time is that within the regional municipality of Ottawa-Carleton, for instance, or any other large metropolitan area, in comparisons of MPPs' salaries with local politicians' salaries, what is happening is that local politicians are now being paid in excess of what MPPs are being paid, notwithstanding the fact that many of us have to maintain two homes. While being compensated for many of those costs, not all those costs are covered with regard to the two areas.

The problem with the present process, as the member for Nipissing has indicated before, is that this particular matter is dealt with by one man, the Premier of the province, and nobody else really has anything to say about what in fact happens with regard to this particular issue.

To put all of that control in one man who, for his own personal reasons, has less concern about it than other members—and quite frankly, I do not have much concern about this particular issue. It does not really make that much difference to me on a personal level because of my ability in private life to be able to sustain myself with regard to living expenses, etc.

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It is interesting to note that last spring I had someone walk into my legislative office and offer a place of employment to me that would have more than doubled the salary I presently receive

as an MPP in this Legislative Assembly. While many members here would argue whether or not Norm Sterling contributes to this legislative process constructively or energetically, or whether he is worth while, the fact of the matter is that if in fact this Legislative Assembly wants to attract people who have skills and are wanted on the outside, then it must offer compensation that is attractive.

I stay in this Legislative Assembly for the same reasons I came here in 1977. I feel I can make a contribution to my constituents and the people of Ontario. I enjoy the excitement of this institution. I think that I can make a better contribution overall here than I can in private life.

The problem with the salary structure now is that it is too disparate. MPPs are not treated equally within the walls of this Legislative Assembly. It leads to a situation where in my view there are MPPs not speaking their mind, not taking an active role in debate and not speaking the minds of their constituents. Therefore, we are on a system which, albeit it was part of a system in which I was a member of government, is one that should be changed.

Quite frankly, as David Bartlett has pointed out with regard to the regional council in the Ottawa-Carleton area, I believe every member in this Legislature should be paid basically the same amount. Some of us might need more administrative help around us, but any additional posts or duties we take should be on the basis that we want to do those for the people of Ontario and that they are an honour and a responsibility we are willing to take. I would be quite willing to live with that regardless of which side of the House I lived on.

Lastly, I would like to say that I had the honour of being a parliamentary assistant to a former Attorney General for a period of four years; I have been a minister in the past government; I have been a member of a large opposition party in the last parliament, and I have been a member of an opposition in a small opposition party as I now am.

I can say that during that period of time, the energy, the effort I have expended has not changed. During all that period of time, I would not say I was worth any more or any less at one time than at any other time during that period of history. Therefore, if we want to measure the worth of an individual as an MPP, it does not relate to the position he holds in this Legislature.

Therefore, I indicate again that our party will oppose these pieces of legislation for the

disparities that continue and the lack of process that continues as well.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. M. C. Ray): Are there any comments or questions? Are there other participants in the debate? Does the government House leader wish to reply?

Hon. Mr. Conway: Yes, I do, briefly, on three or four points. I admit this is a difficult issue. It always is. I have to say what I said at the opening of these remarks, that one should look at some of the alternatives that are being held up as a better way. I would respectfully submit that what we have seen in Washington over the last six weeks, with the recommendations of the Quadrennial Commission, was in my view nothing but an unmitigated disaster.

Mr. Laughren: We can do better than this, Sean.

Hon. Mr. Conway: We may be able to do better than that, but I just say to my friend the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren), and for people who say there is a better way and that it is to accept the recommendations of an external commission, that I ask him to look at what has happened in Washington over the last month with that process in place. It was a disaster. I tell the member that is a Congress where the power of incumbency is enormous. They all get re-elected, virtually.

Mr. Reycraft: It is 99 per cent.

Hon. Mr. Conway: The chief government whip says 99 per cent.

I want to make the point that the other ways have been carefully analysed and they were not accepted. I point out that the American example of recent note is a good example to me that this alternative is not all some would make it out to be.

Mr. Laughren: It depends where you get your direction.

Hon. Mr. Conway: No. I do not want to leave the impression that I take my direction from Capitol Hill. I point to Washington, since others have, to that kind of mechanism, to see what happened in recent days.

I want to say something else. I think it is important for me to say this. Difficult as it is, I do not have a particular problem standing up and addressing the question of my salary in this chamber. Like the member for Carleton, I have played the role on both aisles of this chamber. I do not have a problem. Others might, and I know it is not easy, but I have to tell the members that I have done it in the past and that I will do it in the future.

I am quite prepared to continue to look at alternatives and to try to find in a consensual way that better process that has been talked about. But let me be clear: I do not mind going home tomorrow and saying to the people in my riding what I did and why.

It has been observed by some that some members of this assembly receive additional emoluments relative to others and that is true. As far as I know, ever has it been the case in a parliamentary system. I always understood when I was over there why it was my friend the member for Carleton, formerly Carleton-Grenville, would receive additional emoluments as parliamentary assistant to the late, great Roy McMurtry—late Attorney General, I should say; he is, according to the news last night, alive and well and active in the commission rooms of the city.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: And the practice of law.

Hon. Mr. Conway: And the practice of law.

I understood why he received additional emoluments as parliamentary assistant. I understood why my friend the member for Nipissing received several thousands of additional dollars as a minister of the crown in 1985 for the service he ably offered as Minister of Natural Resources.

I do not want to leave any wrong impression about that. I do not think my friends from either Nipissing or Carleton want that changed. If they do, then that is a revolutionary change, it seems to me, over what I have heard in the past.

I want to say to my friend the member for Nipissing that the adjustment this year, like the adjustment last year, is offered as more or less of a cost-of-living increase: 4.7 per cent this year. I am not suggesting, though, that if we were to move to an escalator it would automatically be that, although that would be an obvious choice. So that there is no confusion in the mind of the member, I want to just make that point.

A final point: Yes, my friend the member for Carleton says, "Who decides?" It is a money bill and under our system the executive council decides.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: It was David Peterson.

Hon. Mr. Conway: My friend the member for Windsor-Riverside observes that it might very well have been done under the leadership of the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson) and he is right, with a lot of advice around the caucus table and around the cabinet table. My friend the member for Hamilton East smiles his knowing smile. I just want to say that we had a very good debate. We had a very lively debate, I want my friends opposite to know. But they should also

know that, yes, it is a money bill, and yes, the cabinet decides and the Premier was quite involved in that decision, as he is in all matters affecting this government.

He has said, "We have got to lead by example." While it is difficult and while members opposite have argued—

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Mr. D. S. Cooke: He's a millionaire.

Hon. Mr. Conway: My friend the member for Windsor-Riverside observes something of the financial state of some members. Perhaps he wants to get into that with his friend the member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden) here and the member for Etobicoke-Rexdale (Mr. Philip) who is absent. I am not going to get into that kind of argument. I do not think it is fair to suggest that these decisions are made with a view to one's own financial status.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Listen, I was not the one who raised the issue, I say to the member for Hamilton East. Please understand that the decision was made by cabinet. Certainly, the Premier had an active role in that. He has said, and I repeat it this morning, that government ultimately bears the responsibility. That is as it should be in our system of parliamentary responsible government. This morning, we are saying to the Legislature and to the province beyond that while it is difficult and while arguments have been eloquently advanced for more, we feel this is reasonable and sets a good example.

We only wish, quite frankly, as the member for Carleton observed, that others in the municipal and school board world would take a close look at this and perhaps more carefully follow the example of this legislation. It is very difficult for members of this Legislature to read in the national capital's English-language daily about the inadequacy of provincial transfers on the one day, and on the next day a very eloquent pitch from local government about the need for very substantial pay raises. With some interest, I watched school boards tell us about the inadequacy of legislative grant increases and at the same time I see double-digit increases that are really quite another story, at least in terms of the remuneration payable to trustees.

I conclude by saying, yes, the government decided; yes, the Premier played his customary leadership role. He said, "We think this is fair, we think it is reasonable and we think it shows a

good example to the province in this connection."

The Acting Speaker: I will put the question.

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for third reading.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Conway moved second reading of Bill 213, An Act to amend the Executive Council Act.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Very briefly, this bill increases the salaries paid to members of the executive council of the province by 4.7 per cent for the fiscal year 1988-89. I move the adoption of this measure on the same grounds that were advanced in support of the previous item.

Mr. Laughren: I want to briefly enter the debate because I did not have an opportunity in the previous debate.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Ah, Mr. Sanity from the NDP.

Mr. Laughren: I do not think the Minister of Labour should get into this debate unless he is prepared to do so in a formal way.

I found it very strange in the previous vote how the Liberal backbenchers did not express their views in this chamber the way they have privately in the corridors these last many months.

The other point I want to make to the government House leader is that I recall a year ago when in this chamber there was a debate about this very matter and I very clearly heard the government House leader promise there would be a new process. It was not some kind of vague assurance that they would think about it. It seemed to me very clear that the government House leader was saying there would be a new process for arriving at a decision on what members of this assembly should be paid, including members of the cabinet of course.

The other point I want to make is that we have in this province a Commission on Election Finances. I do not know why the government is proceeding in the way it is when it has that commission with its given mandate. I assume that at this point the commission would tell it to stick it in its ear.

It is ridiculous to give them a certain task, such as asking them to make a recommendation to the government on the emoluments of elected members, and then ignore them year after year

after year. I do not know why they take the insult, quite frankly. If I were they, I would say, "Either change our mandate or get somebody else to do it."

It is an incredible act of arrogance on the part of this government to have established that commission, to have given it that mandate and then totally to ignore it year after year. If I were a member of that commission, I know what I would tell the government. I am surprised they have not already. I would certainly encourage them to tell the government what to do with the existing mandate they presently have, because the government is making a mockery of it. It is asking them to do something and it is saying, "However, go through the exercise." They have done a lot of work in this regard. They have checked it out with other jurisdictions. They have made serious and carefully reasoned recommendations year after year.

The government says, "Well, we're not going to listen to you." Why does the government have them there? Why is it paying them to do a job and then ignoring their recommendations? To me, that makes no sense, for those two reasons: first, the fact that the government House leader promised a different process—he promised, as I recall, quite specifically, quite clearly, in his usual articulate way, that there would be a new process. Well, there is not.

I know it is just another in a long list of broken promises. It does not rank up there with the importance of some of the promises that have been broken, but it is still yet another broken promise on the part of this government.

I, for one, no longer expect the government to carry out what it promises to do. When these ministers stand up day after day and make announcements, in my own head I just discount them. I think a lot of people out there in Ontario discount the grand statements that are made, because they are not carried through; they are not followed up.

I am glad to see the Minister of Labour shaking his head, because if ever there was an example, it is the Minister of Labour.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Why are you making a personal attack?

Mr. Laughren: I am glad the Minister of Labour has decided to get into the debate. I hope that when he returns to his seat he will get into the debate in a more formal way.

I can tell him that for those two reasons: one, that there was yet another Liberal promise broken, which should not surprise any of us but nevertheless it is another broken promise; and

second, that they continue to ignore the recommendations of the Commission on Election Finances, one of whose duties is to make recommendations to the government and the government has failed to even acknowledge in any meaningful way what the commission recommends, I shall not support this bill.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I have just two quick comments to my friend the member for Nickel Belt. I checked the Hansard of January 7, 1988, because I anticipated his attack. I want to be clear, as page 1832 of that Hansard makes plain, that what I committed to do was to enter negotiations with my colleagues in the opposition to see if we could not find another way, and we did that. We worked at some length to see if we could come to some understanding. It was a commitment made in good faith and carried forward in good faith, I want the honourable member to know.

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Mr. Laughren: A year ago.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Yes. I just want to be very clear about what I committed the government to do. In my view, we did that; we did it responsibly.

Mr. Laughren: You didn't do anything. You didn't do it; stop pretending.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Well, I am just not pretending, and I want my friend opposite to know a second matter. Much is made from the opposition benches, and to be perfectly frank I used to do it when I was over there as well—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: And probably will again.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Perhaps so. My friend the member for Scarborough West suggests that the day may come when I might return to the other side of the island. He may very well be right. My experience with the member for Scarborough West is that he is far more clairvoyant than most of us, myself included, so I am quite prepared to defer to his Mackenzie King-like vision in these and other matters.

I have to say something else, but I should just finish the comment, because the opposition likes to create the impression that it has extensive intelligence of what the government benches are about in these matters. If what the honourable member opposite is saying is that there is a range of opinion in the government caucus, well he is absolutely right. I have some very good friends who have said to me some of the things that have already been advanced by members of the opposition.

I do not want to put him on the spot, but I see the member for Mississauga West (Mr. Mahoney) here. He has pointed out to me on occasion some of the differentials as between municipal and provincial pay scales in these matters.

I just want to be perfectly frank with my friends opposite that it is not as though there is one view in the government caucus. The government caucus is representative of a wide range of views on this and, quite frankly, on a number of other issues. But after the good discussion and after the vigorous debate, this government caucus has a cohesiveness and a discipline that my friends opposite might do well to emulate. I know that it is not always easy to accept that, but I want to say to my friends that this government caucus, in terms of its cohesion and discipline, is a very, very exemplary group.

I have a final observation I want to make for my friend the member for Nickel Belt. He says: "What about the Commission on Election Finances? Isn't it terrible that they have been asked to make recommendations and they have not been accepted?" I do not agree with his assessment that this is terrible. I have to tell the members that we are elected by the people of Ontario as an assembly, out of which comes a government to make these decisions. I just have to tell my friends opposite that I take the responsibility of being the government very seriously.

There are few people for whom I have a higher regard than my friend the chairman of the Commission on Election Finances. He was asked for advice and he gave advice. I remember when the member for Halton Centre (Mrs. Sullivan), now of this Legislature, formerly of that commission, participated in that process. They were asked for advice and they gave advice, but this government has the ultimate responsibility of making the decision. If the members opposite are asking whether we are prepared to accept that responsibility and to discharge it with sensitivity and clarity, we are.

If people who are asked to give us advice feel that just because their advice is not always accepted—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Never.

Hon. Mr. Conway: That is not true. I have to tell the member that the Commission on Election Finances has offered advice on a variety of subjects. I can think of their advice on certain aspects of changes to the election law in this province and it was quickly accepted.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Never by you guys.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: You've never accepted anything they've said on money.

Hon. Mr. Conway: On the question of members' salaries, the member is probably right, but I want to disabuse my friends opposite of any sense they might have that we feel this is an unhappy situation. They get to offer advice and we get to make the decisions. They are not always easy—

Mr. D. S. Cooke: We are over here and you are over there.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Not at all, because as we discussed in this chamber in recent days—my friend the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) said it last night—I listen to our friends in the opposition talk about programming. The member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston) is a very active proponent of spending on a whole range of proposals. The member for Cambridge (Mr. Farnan) was in yesterday, talking about how a variety of programs needed to be enhanced by way of commitment. But we ask over here about that group over there: Where are they when it comes to revenue matters?

Where are they on matters of taxation? With the odd exception, do they carefully withdraw from showing their cards, because they know there are some very tough issues, calls and judgements to be made? They do not want to be associated with them. They are prepared to stand in the sunshine of good-news announcements, but they will run as quickly as any sprinter one can think of from the tough questions of tax increases and other related matters.

I say in conclusion that we are prepared to do what the people of Ontario elected us to do: to make those tough decisions and to lead by example. We think, in this bill, as in its antecedent Bill 212, we have been fair and reasonable to the members of the Legislature and have shown a good example to the municipal sector and to the community at large. For those reasons, I once again say that I am pleased to put these motions and have them accepted.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: What's that glinting behind you? There's 4.7 per cent.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. M. C. Ray): The discussion is now concluded.

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for third reading.

REPORT BY COMMITTEE

STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for adoption of the recommendation contained in the report, on the process for the restoration of the parliament building, of the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Epp: I am sure that we will not be able to emulate the kind of excitement that the two previous bills generated in this House. I get the impression that we are going to have unanimous consent to this particular motion and I am pleased to be able to participate in what I consider to be a very important debate and a very important adoption of a very important report.

I just want to outline a few things with regard to this debate. I understand there have been approximately 30 minutes allocated to the three parties—10 minutes to each—so that we might get out of here at a time that is still reasonable, and people can get their lunch and get back here by 1:30 p.m.

In going back on the history of this particular building and looking at the restoration and renovation of this particular edifice, I find it is a tremendous building. I know the legislative chamber here is one of the nicest chambers I have seen in the five or 10 parliament buildings or legislative chambers that I have visited, both in the United States and in Canada. When we look at the particular building here and the history of this Legislature, we find that the area where the legislators met in this province has not always been in Toronto.

If we go back over 100 years ago—or 200 years ago, actually—in 1792 the legislators met first in Newark at that time, which is now Niagara-on-the-Lake. They moved from the Navy Hall to an oak tree in the centre of town, where now stands the Parliament Oak Public School, which I, by chance, had the good opportunity to attend back in the late 1940s, which gives you some idea of how old I am.

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Prior to that, there was no real Legislature. After that, the legislators moved to Toronto, where the permanent home of the Legislature is now situate.

They first met at Front Street, where they built a building shortly thereafter of wood and brick.

In 1813, which was during the War of 1812—members will appreciate that—the building was burned down by the American military forces. Following that, a new building was built, but in the interim the legislators met at the York General Hospital and the courthouse at the corner of King and Church streets.

The building was rebuilt, and then in 1832 the building was again ravaged by fire, but this was accidental, and a new structure was built shortly thereafter.

In 1841 the two provinces of Upper Canada and Lower Canada were joined, and the parliaments of these two provinces met not only in Kingston and Toronto but also outside the province in Quebec City and Montreal. The government for this province has taken place not only in Ontario but also in Lower Canada, or Quebec as we know it today.

In designing this particular structure, the building went through a series of controversies. For instance, there was a committee that was established in the 1880s by the then government. There were three people on that committee and they drew up the specs, which were about 14 pages in length. They had a number of architectural firms and others who put forth plans. They were never happy with any one of them. Sometimes they picked the highest price, sometimes they picked the lowest price and so forth as far as the estimates were concerned.

At that time, in the 1880s, they thought the highest price of the building they wanted to construct was about \$500,000. That is a pittance compared to the kind of investment we have now and it is a very small portion when we are talking about the restoration and renovation of this particular building.

What happened was what has happened in some industries. They drew up the specs and they found that one of the persons who could best deliver and who was an architect himself, out of Buffalo, was a fellow by the name of Waite who then became the architect of this particular building. They finished this structure, which has certain changes because of fires having taken place, for approximately \$700,000, in that general neighbourhood.

In looking at this particular structure, I just want to quote from a report that was drafted by the Ministry of Culture and Communications in 1988, just to outline some of the structure here and what members might appreciate about the way it was developed.

It says: "Of considerable credit if not genius is the manner in which the entire parliament

buildings are arranged in an harmonious five-part composition that at once appears formal and yet individual parts are enriched with an informal variety of textures and details. This Waite refers to as 'informal balance' and is a principle much exploited in the Romanesque style. The efficient functioning of the internal arrangements of rooms and spaces was of considerable concern to the government, probably more than the selected architectural style of the exterior. The central block is the primary public space incorporating the main entrance, the grand staircase and the legislative chamber. The subordinate lower wings to the east and west provide administrative support to the Legislature and the government. Basically, the west wing was used for legislative functions and services including the various members' chambers, opposition offices, the library and the Speaker's apartment. The east wing provides rooms for the various departments, the Premier's chambers, cabinet and other supporting services."

That was the way it was designed and that is the way it has developed over the years. Still another thing, as we look at this particular building—and it is a wonderful building; many of us have offices in it—at that time they thought that the building was too large. They thought that it would take a long, long time to fill the building. We know it was filled within a few years, and within about 20 years they were constructing the north wing. The west wing, as members know, was ravaged by fire and they reconstructed that and even added rooms on to it.

But an interesting note is in the book called *The House Was My Home* by the former Clerk of this Legislature, Roderick Lewis. He writes on page 5, in describing the scene of the opening of the Legislative Building in 1892 when Oliver Mowat was Premier, that he came riding up University Avenue with a long-term servant of this province, a Mr. Fitch. Mr. Fitch said, "It's a fine building, sir, a fine building." To which Premier Mowat replied: "Charlie, it frightens me to death. We'll never fill it in 100 years".

The feeling at that time was that we would not fill this building for maybe 100 years. Mr. Mowat was somewhat frightened by the prospect of this large building, but it did not take long. The imagination of politicians and civil servants found ways to fill the building very quickly.

Subsequent to that, the building, of course, was visited by a number of important visitors over the years. I just want to look very quickly at some of the people who have spoken in this chamber who were not members of the chamber.

We go back to 1941 when Wendell Willkie addressed the chamber here. He was the leader of the Republican Party in the United States. We find out that Cardinal McGuigan addressed it in 1946 and that the tremendous figure skater Barbara Ann Scott addressed it in 1947.

In addition, we are told that King George VI and Queen Elizabeth met guests and so forth and briefly addressed the accompanying guests in this chamber in 1939. Just a few years ago—most of the members who are here today were here in 1976 when the then Bishop of Johannesburg, Desmond Tutu, addressed the members.

These are only a few of the important events that have taken place. This chamber has also seen a number of great orators, Mr. Speaker. I am sure you remember them, but for the benefit of all the other members I just want to mention a few of them. We had the member for Sudbury at one time, Elmer Sopha, who I am told was one of the great orators back in the late 1960s and early 1970s. In addition, Farquhar Oliver, a gentleman who was leader of the Liberal Party and who passed away just a very short time ago, was probably, I am told, the greatest orator that this chamber ever heard. I remember when I first came here just a few short years ago, listening to Stephen Lewis orate in these chambers. I remember that when he spoke, many members and staff would come in just to hear him speak.

We have had the benefit of some great people speaking here. I think that is a tribute to the kind of chamber that we have here and to the province in general.

1220

In looking at restoration and renovation, we have to look very quickly at some of the basic things that need to be done. The roof probably has to be replaced. I have never been up there, but I know it is made out of slate and copper. That is a major job. There are, it was once estimated, approximately 400 windows in this building. Some of them are rotting. In my own office, when there is quite a snowstorm the snow will come in under the window sills. I am told by one of the reporters that whenever we have a heavy rain in the summer, spring or fall, it rains into his office, on the floor there. Papers and other things can be damaged that way. Those are major things that have to be done.

Most people, when they go to eat, do not go into the basement to eat; they probably have their dining room on the main floor. Yet in this building we have the dining room in the basement. I think we should take a serious look at the facilities, not only the dining facilities for

members and guests but also, equally as important, the cafeteria facilities, which are very inadequate as far as groups coming in and as far as members of the staff, the legislative staff, the library staff and so forth, are concerned. People want to get a quick bite to eat, but there are inadequate facilities downstairs.

We have no committee rooms that are adequate for a group of citizens coming in that might number over 50 people. We might be able to crowd 50 people into a committee room, but I think we should be able to accommodate at least a few hundred.

There is also the fact that the Lieutenant Governor is in this building. He has been here since the mid-1930s. I question whether constitutionally the Lieutenant Governor should be in this building. The other important point of course is the fact that he has an apartment here on two floors, and that space might be more appropriately used in another manner.

Very quickly, what our committee is recommending in the report is that the Speaker and the chairman of the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly co-chair a committee of five members, including one member from the New Democratic Party, one member from the Progressive Conservative Party and a member of the Liberal Party. There has been a committee that has met over a period of time.

We suggest that committee be given authority to oversee restoration and renovation of this particular building, and of course two floors in the Whitney Block but that is a subsequent thing. We are 100 per cent interested in this particular building and not so much in the Whitney Block, although we do overlap into that building for offices for members. Assistance would come from the director of Legislative Assembly services as well as the Clerk and the controller and various other interested people from historical boards, the heritage boards and the province.

I am pleased to be able to have participated in this debate and I look forward to hearing the comments of the members from the two other parties on this matter.

Mr. Breagh: It has taken a while and a lot of effort, but it would appear that we are on the verge of doing something that, for me and for many other members here, is long overdue. It has been a difficult road because, although this I suppose does not matter to very many other people, the history is that the chamber itself and this building have not ever been in the control of the members of the assembly and now they are.

The Speaker now has jurisdiction over this building and a portion of another building.

We have tried, in the last year or so, to sort out the process question. How would we go about renovating and restoring this building? We think that the recommendations of this report provide a mechanism whereby that process can begin. We will simply have members representing each of the caucuses here, the Speaker and the chairman of the Legislative Assembly committee make the recommendations and do the legwork that has to be done to undertake—I think we should put this on the record today—what is going to be probably a long and difficult task.

Many of us are advocates obviously of the political system that we have and we kind of love the trappings of the process as well: this chamber, this building and all the things that go on here. It is not just a memento to political junkies like me, though. The important thing to try to remember is that this building represents democracy in this province.

Without getting too high-faluting about it all, that is important to each and every person who lives in Ontario. The values, the traditions and the political process that we are associated with occur in and around this building are important to my father, who uses the medical care system that emanated from this building, are important to my children and are important to the neighbours in my own community. This is symbolic in a sense, but it is important to the people of Ontario.

Many of us have looked at other jurisdictions and how they went about the restoration and renovation of their buildings. We are aware that this is not an easy thing to do. In this building as it now stands, for example, about 20 per cent of the building is not usable. The fire marshal says so; common sense tells us that too. So one of the first priorities will be to try to make better use of the facilities we have.

The second thing we have learned in other jurisdictions is that you can do a lot towards the restoration of a building by simply stopping destroying the building. Much of what people will see as they wander about this very old building is that a lot of it has been destroyed by us, by people who wanted a wall moved and did not think about how that should be done, by somebody who wanted to stick a window in here or do something else somewhere else.

I am often reminded that I would very much like to have in my home some of the little oak woodwork that is in my office, but if I were doing it in my home I would be most upset if somebody came in and strapped a cable down some oak

railing in my living room and then ran a staple gun up and down it three or four times and said, "That's the way we are going to do this."

I think in my own home I would want someone to do that with a little bit more care and a little bit more diligence, because I would probably be well aware that if I went to Beaver Lumber and tried to replace that oak trim, it would cost me an arm and a leg.

Hon. Mr. Conway: But you didn't want to tell Cassidy and Bounsall that they couldn't make some of those alterations in those happy days.

Mr. Breaugh: That is true, yes. The government House leader, in his eminent wisdom, has stuck his nose into the debate one more time.

We should put a couple of things on the record today too. Although I am obviously strongly an advocate of this committee report and the restoration of this building, it does mean some things. We are not going to be able to accommodate everybody in the way we want. In my view, this is a parliament first and foremost, and the functions of a working parliament are the paramount concern that should dominate what this committee does as it goes about restoring the building.

I think many of us would like to see a good deal of restoration in the building, but we are mindful that it is a working place as well and that in this day and age we need to have computers, televisions, telephones and all kinds of fax machines. There is a need to bring that modern era into the building. We obviously do not want to restore the building to its virgin state as it was originally built, because most of us would like to have electricity in our offices and most of us would like to be able to use the telephone now and then.

But we have seen other jurisdictions where this has been done with some sensitivity, where there is an attempt made successfully to recapture the original spirit of the building, where there is a willingness on the part of those who do the repairs to the building to try to get it back to a period of restoration, so that you can sense what the history of the building is about.

Sometimes as you walk around this building you see great works of art that have not really been preserved in the way they should; you see fine furniture that is stacked one piece on top of another; you see the way they rip out electrical cables and stick in new ones. You get some sense that there is not much respect for the building.

It is my hope that the work of this committee, with the help of the Legislative Assembly, will restore some of that respect, restore some of the

art around the building to its original condition and display it so that the people of Ontario can see that treasure, restore some of the woodwork you see in and around this chamber to its original condition so people can appreciate the great craftsmanship that has gone into the construction of this building.

As I went through the committee report, I was struck by the number of things I do not know about this building, even though I have been a member here for a long time. I was not aware that there is an immigrants' entrance to the building, and there is. In the northeast corner of the building there is an entrance that at one time was called the immigrants' entrance. I was not aware that there is a members' entrance until I read some of the background report.

One of the things that became obvious as we dug up all of these reports is the amount of time, money and effort that has been spent over the years to study the building. The tragedy, of course, is that those efforts went awry. Nothing ever happened to a lot of it. It is interesting to note that in the building we have a jail, though few people could find it; we have a movie theatre—

1230

The Acting Speaker (Mr. M. C. Ray): Order, please. We have an outstanding order from last Thursday to conclude the debate at 12:30. Is there unanimous consent to continue and to conclude it? At what time?

Mr. Breagh: It is my understanding that we have roughly set about 10 minutes or so for each of the parties to do that, so we could conclude in about 10 minutes' time. Is that agreeable?

Agreed to.

Mr. Breagh: In conclusion, then, I do hope that members understand some things about this. This is not going to be cheap any way you cut it, but our options are really kind of limited. There are parts of the building that are unsafe, and we should say that and know that. There are parts of the building where if we spent some money to restore portions of this building, we could actually use the space. I believe that would be a good thing.

I think we should do all of this with some respect for the history of the building, for the knowledge that this is still a working parliament; that should be the paramount concern as the committee goes through its work.

I hope we can do a good job. I hope it will not take for ever and ever to get done, but I do appreciate that it is going to be expensive, and

even if we want to it is going to take a lot of time. I am reminded that some of the work around the building is work which is not commonly done any more and that we will have some difficulty finding people with the skills to rebuild the stonework and the woodwork around the building, but I hope we can do that.

I hope that as the committee goes about its business, it is both creative and mindful that the people of Ontario, in their own way, have a very valuable resource here in this building and in the work that goes on around the parliament of Ontario. I hope all members will be supportive of the committee's recommendations to proceed in this manner.

Mr. Sterling: As I guess the only professional civil engineer in the Legislature of Ontario, I have been designated by my party to be involved in the restoration and renovation and maintenance of this particular building.

As you know, 1993 will be the centenary for the main Legislative Building that we are now housed in, and I believe it is incumbent upon us in the Legislature to plan and to rebuild and to put this building into a position so that it will serve the Legislative Assembly for the next 100 years. Therefore, it is necessary for us to put forward a method and a means to undertake that particular task.

Some time ago I became aware of the fact that there are many problems with the existing structure and the maintenance of this particular building. If we did not undertake to change any of the functions or the space or any part of this building, we would be faced—and we are going to be faced—with a substantial maintenance or repair cost just in order to keep the structure standing and dry and warm in the winter and somewhat livable in the summertime.

Therefore, I think that it should be very important for us to point out as we go through this next process that many of the costs that will be incurred, and they are going to be substantial, would be there regardless of whether or not we decided to make any changes in the formation or the division of this particular building.

This step was necessary because, most recently you Mr. Speaker, have taken over the lead role with regard to this main Legislative Building. Up until that particular step was taken, the government had the responsibility for taking care of this particular building. Now it is unclear how decisions are to be made when we have to fix the roof and replace the windows, which are so old and lose so much energy through them every day.

So I applaud the member's leadership, the leadership of the chairman of the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly and our clerk for putting together an idea and a group which is embodied in this resolution, for us to be able to make those decisions which are going to have to take place in the next two, three or four years and which will affect the lives of members of this Legislature for a century, really. I will be happy to participate in that, if in fact I get the opportunity, as a representative of my caucus.

As members know from our previous discussions with regard to this matter, I have a concern as to the willingness of the government to supply this Legislative Assembly with the necessary funds in order to carry this project through. I can only say that I will go forward at the initial stages in good faith, and put as much effort and energy as I can into trying to reach logical and reasonable conclusions and decisions as to how we should proceed.

But I may say, as a bit of a warning, as we go through this process that it will involve, on the part of the government leaders and the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) of the government of the day—it may not be this particular Treasurer; it may not be this government—taking some flak on their part when we replace the roof of this particular building at a cost of maybe \$15 million, which may be the estimate of that kind of repair. Therefore, not only is it going to require the committee to work hard but also it is going to require a show of fortitude and determination on the part of the sitting government to see this thing through to its final end.

The other part that will be very important for us, as members of the Legislature, will be to try to understand all of the pushes and pulls that are made in each and every decision. It may affect the size of our offices; it may affect whether we have a decent kitchen in this particular place in order for us to have meals prepared for our staff and for members of this Legislature or of the visiting public; it may affect whether people from our province can come here and park their cars while they visit the Legislature. All of those kinds of decisions are going to be difficult to come to a conclusion on, and members of the Legislature are going to have to show a significant amount of support for this committee and the decisions that it makes.

I only say that my participation on that particular committee will be with those kinds of understandings, that we will get the support of the government in terms of the financial end, providing we are reasonable; and we will get the

support of the members of the Legislature after they have had their opportunity for input and after what is a reasonable decision by the committee that is being formed by this resolution today.

I would like to leave a few moments of my party's time—if I have not used it all up—for my colleague on the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly, the member for Wellington (Mr. J. M. Johnson), to have a few moments for a few remarks.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I will take only a few minutes. I did intend to make a major speech, but I will set that aside for another day. I have just a couple of personal observations. One is that I very strongly support the recommendation, the motion before the House. It has not only my personal support but also the support of our party.

I have served on this committee for many years. I have travelled to Sacramento and Victoria. I was criticized, along with other members, by the press; some referred to it as a junket. If we do not go ahead with it, then indeed it will be a junket; if we do go ahead with it, then it will have been a trip that was well worth while because we did learn a lot in both cities.

1240

In closing, I might just make a personal comment that the sandstone that was used for the construction of this building came from my old riding of Wellington-Dufferin-Peel, from the town of Caledon just south of Orangeville. I do feel that it is part of my heritage and that I want to preserve it, so I hope that we can work in that direction. The centennial is, I believe, on April 4, 1993. If we do not have it completed then, let's at least be well on the way.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I would like to take just 30 seconds, because I have enjoyed the debate. I certainly have read of the work that the committee has done. The member for Carleton (Mr. Sterling) makes the point that there is a lot of work to be done, and a lot of that work is going to require the appropriation of very considerable dollars. The government has been advised, at least at a preliminary stage, of what some of those spending pressures are going to be.

In fact, as my friend from Carleton will know, the House leaders and the Board of Internal Economy have also been discussing a way in which this might proceed. We are anxious that we move forward in a fashion—I do not want to discourage the committee, but I do want to say, on behalf of the government, that we are going to have to take a very long and hard look at what are

going to be very considerable sums of money, and I do not want to create unrealistic expectations.

Again, my friend from Waterloo North (Mr. Epp) has been pressing me, on behalf of the committee, for it seems like too many days now. I do not want to denigrate his very considerable efforts, but I do want, on behalf of the government, to indicate—and, quite frankly, on behalf of at least our side of the Board of Internal Economy—there are some big dollars involved in this, and we are going to have to find a way to

work our way through that. The government, of course, is again going to have to lead the way in those appropriations.

I just wanted to say that I have really enjoyed the speeches, and that I have learned some things about this building that I did not know anything about. I am anxious to talk to my friends from Waterloo, Oshawa, Wellington and Carleton about where some of these places are.

Motion agreed to.

The House recessed at 12:43 p.m.

AFTERNOON SITTING

The House resumed at 1:30 p.m.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Mr. Philip: Eighty groups or individuals from Metropolitan Toronto wishing to present their views on Bill 162, the new Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, have been rejected by the Liberal government.

New Democrats on the standing committee on resources development moved a motion that all groups and individuals wishing to make presentations on this important change to the Workers' Compensation Act should be heard. This motion was defeated by the Liberal majority on the committee. In the past, similar motions have carried in other committees holding hearings on important legislation. One must ask why the Liberals are so afraid of the views of the public on this matter.

Residents in Etobicoke will lose their opportunity to present their views since organizations such as the Lakeshore Area Multi-Service Project, the soft drink workers union, the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 808, and the Etobicoke Board of Education will likely not have an opportunity to appear.

In response to public indignation, the Liberals did move to extend the sitting hours in Toronto. However, this new schedule will allow only 18 additional groups to appear, thus disfranchising 62 groups or individuals from appearing. Why are the Premier (Mr. Peterson), the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara) and the Liberal members on the committee so afraid of the views of my constituents and those of other Metro MPPs that they want to muzzle them? Why does the Minister of Labour not withdraw the bill rather than try to withdraw the public?

GOVERNMENT'S RECORD

Mr. McLean: My statement concerns three specific areas in which this government has failed miserably and has let the people of Ontario down badly. The Premier (Mr. Peterson) said he had a plan to reduce automobile insurance premiums for motorists in Ontario. However, we have just seen them increase for just about everybody. Ontario's health care system is in a shambles after meddling by this government, resulting in hospital construction delays, a shortage of nurses and postponed heart surgery.

This government promised to return the province's share of education spending to the 60 per cent level; instead, it has declined to about 40 per cent.

Rather than solving these and other critical issues facing the people of Ontario, this government has chosen instead to almost double the salaries of its executive assistants, increase the salaries of deputy ministers from \$87,000 to about \$130,000, hire more than 7,000 new employees, increase the administration budget for virtually every ministry from 35 per cent to 40 per cent and tax the people of Ontario an additional \$1.3 billion. They have also frozen the municipal transfer payments at 1988 levels and have increased the sales tax to eight per cent.

I have a constituent who phoned me this morning with regard to heart surgery. Mrs. Crawford's husband needs a triple bypass and she indicates it will be June 30 before it will be considered.

KELLY SMITH

Mr. Pelissero: At a time when we hear so much in the media about young people in trouble, it is particularly important to accentuate the many positive accomplishments of young people, such as 15-year-old Kelly Smith of Grimsby in my riding. Kelly was recently awarded the Canada Cord, the highest achievement attainable by a Pathfinder in the Girl Guides of Canada movement.

To earn the Canada Cord, Kelly had to attain a bronze-, silver- and finally gold-level standing in six Pathfinder emblems, an achievement that took her three years to complete. The Canada Cord is presented to an outstanding Girl Guide who has successfully met over 135 Pathfinder challenges and completed 20 sections to achieve a gold level in camping, community, home, outdoor and world emblems as well as all sections of the "Be Prepared" emblem.

For the camping emblem, Kelly had to plan and lead a camping expedition. The community emblem involved meeting challenges in arts, recreation, knowledge and service, citizenship and heritage. For the home emblem, Kelly had to meet challenges in fashion and health, leisure time and hobbies, nutrition and home management, and personal relationships and values.

The outdoor emblem involved challenges in conservation, the natural environment, outdoor skills, sports and fitness. For the world emblem,

Kelly had to meet specific challenges involving Canadian history, global understanding, travel and world guiding. The "Be Prepared" emblem, which is the highest of the six emblems, was further divided into three sections: community, home and outdoors.

I ask all members to join me in congratulating Kelly on her outstanding achievement. Way to go, Kelly.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Mr. Charlton: On Tuesday, February 28, my colleague the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie) read into the record a partial list of groups and representatives of groups in Hamilton and surrounding area that have been denied access to the standing committee on resources development hearings on Bill 162, An Act to amend the Workers' Compensation Act.

The government seems to have failed to understand that the large volume of requests to appear before this committee reflects the serious nature of how the Ontario community views these amendments. Unfortunately, the Liberal members on that committee have voted to deny access to large numbers of groups.

Robert File, chairperson of the workers' compensation committee, Local 397, Canadian Auto Workers, has been denied access to that committee. Bob Jaggard of Local 107, Amalgamated Transit Union, has been denied access to that committee. Mark Brett, Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 1344, has been denied access to the hearings before that committee. David Wallace of the United Steelworkers of America, Local 2868, has been denied access to those hearings.

James Culp, International Association of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Iron Workers, Local 736, has been denied access to those hearings. Glen Norton, CUPE Local 1263, has been denied access to those hearings. Doug Hart, area co-ordinator, United Steelworkers of America, Local 6200, has been denied access to those hearings. George Irvine, president, Canadian Auto Workers, Local 525, has been denied access to those hearings. There are many, many others.

GOVERNMENT'S RECORD

Mr. Harris: Will Rogers said, "I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts." He would have found this government's performance hilarious, but we and the people of Ontario are not laughing. There is nothing funny about a government that thinks that the way to

conduct business is to start slow and then taper off.

There is nothing funny about apathy and ineptitude, about a government that has mismanaged every issue it has not chosen to ignore. There is nothing funny about a government that deals with a housing crisis by telling people to give up the dream of home ownership or move somewhere else. No one in the province, except perhaps the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon), is chuckling over the \$1.3 billion tax grab, although a few giggles have been heard from some corners over the government's farcical free trade policy.

The people of Ottawa-Carleton are not smiling today over this government's bungling and ineptitude in the space centre issue, and Ontario municipalities have not been greatly amused by anything this administration has done.

Of course, it is probably too much to expect that the government would be able to run the province when it has not even been able to properly conduct the business of this House.

Give everyone over there a good shake, Mr. Speaker, or a good shuffle to wake them up from their long winter's nap. During the intersession, they should take the time to update their résumés, because if this session is an indication of what we can expect, we have an idea of what the people will do when it comes time to—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. The member's time has expired.

USE OF LOT LEVIES

Mr. Owen: In Simcoe Centre in recent years there have been quite a few new millionaires. Most of these people have reached this status because of the real estate boom.

The Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) has proposed a new lot levy for new school construction. Why?

In January 1988, a couple in Barrie signed an offer on a new home for \$198,000. Two weeks later, the same home plan in the same subdivision went up by \$10,000. By the closing date in June, the \$198,000 home sold for \$248,000. Between January and June, the cost of land, building materials and labour remained the same; however, the developer made \$50,000 more for each unit.

Today the value of the home is not governed by the contributing costs, but rather by supply and demand. Without the new school in the subdivision, there would be no demand.

In the past few years, our government has increased capital contributions to new schools from \$70 million annually to \$300 million.

Notwithstanding this mammoth increase in provincial funding, portable classrooms in the same period increased from 4,000 units to 7,000 units.

We believe in free enterprise. We do not begrudge the new millionaires their millions. However, it is unfair for them to build their fortunes on the backs of the taxpayer. With the Treasurer's proposal, those who benefit from the location of the new schools will help pay for the new schools.

Demanding new times require challenging new solutions. The Treasurer is to be commended for his bold and innovative proposal.

1340

MINISTER'S COMMENT

Mr. McLean: I just want to comment briefly on the occurrence at the Ontario Good Roads Association convention—I stroke out the words “good roads”; it was at the roads convention—where the Minister of Transport (Mr. Fulton) indicated he was willing to meet anybody, anywhere, any time.

I observed that the delegates at that roads convention wanted to meet on different occasions with the minister and he refused to meet. However, he insisted his staff could meet. I say shame on the minister and the other ministers who were not there to meet the delegates who wanted to discuss the problems they are having within their municipalities because of this government's flat-lining the grants to the local municipalities.

Mr. Speaker: That completes statements by the members.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I ask for unanimous consent to make some comments. I think all parties would like to do so, this being the beginning of international women's week.

Agreed to.

Mr. Speaker: The Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara) or whoever wishes to go first.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Always happy to defer.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: If I might, I suppose that since we made the request for the unanimous consent, perhaps we should go forward, although I am always delighted to see a minister who wishes to get up to participate in these kinds of actions; besides the government House leader, of course, who is always ready to jump to his feet at a moment's notice.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I think it is an important day for us to recognize as a Legislature, a

Legislature that is still predominantly male, although in the election we had the largest increase in women representatives that we have ever seen. But this is still very much the men's club, as is much of the power structure of our society at the end of the 1980s.

I think it is very important to look at the issues that women's committees from around the province, around the country, and in fact around the world will be looking at in this coming week. In this province, a major concentration will be about poverty and women.

I think most members should be aware at this stage—I hope they are—that there has been a great feminization of poverty in this province and this country over the last number of years; that statistically if you are a woman, you are much more likely to find yourself trapped in poverty than you are if you are a male; that large numbers of children, well over one million children in this country and bordering on 350,000 children in this province, live in poverty, often with single-parent mothers as their main providers, with all the incredible burdens that adds.

It is also important to note that if you look at the likelihood of moving into poverty when you are elderly, even though there has been some redress of this in the last number of years, if you are a woman you have a much greater likelihood of spending your retirement years with a lack of money than you do if you are a male in our society. It is a very clear distinction still.

In this province I think we had hoped to see some major steps in leadership by this government in terms of dealing with issues that are of importance to women, both around poverty issues—we wait with bated breath now for the budget and the speech from the throne to see if the government is going to move on the Transitions report, where Judge Thomson so pointedly drew our attention to the problems of women and poverty.

But we also have other things to look at. I have raised with this minister in the House the whole question of parental leave and maternity leave and how far behind other jurisdictions in the world Ontario still is. The minister has not given us any indication when changes that would deal with those concerns might be forthcoming, although he agreed they were matters of concern to him.

If I look at our equal pay legislation and the problems it is having in terms of getting going and actually dealing with the real problems of a vast number of people in our province, I am inclined to want to point fingers and say, “We

told you so." It is really the moment for this government to take major initiatives in working on some of the female work ghettos of this province to redress the major problems they have.

This is a day when it is perhaps ironic that it will be a man from our party and a man from the government party who get up to make the speeches on this matter, that it is not the case that either the government has a spokesperson for women's issues who happens to be female or that the official opposition is in that position. I hope that some day that will definitely be the case.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I see a very able spokesperson across the aisle.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I notice the government House leader notices a potential spokesperson for our party. I can definitely see three in our party, and I can see many others in his party who, as well, might be able to fill the shoes of the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara) a little more appropriately at this point.

It is definitely time for us to look seriously at issues around women's roles in the power structures of this province. I sometimes think we take a couple of steps forwards and then, regrettably, a few steps backwards in our initiatives. It would have been remiss if we had not asked for unanimous consent today to draw the attention of the full House and the people of Ontario to many of the outstanding issues that still are there for women before they have full equality in this province.

Mrs. Cunningham: It is with great pleasure that I rise today to acknowledge International Women's Day. This is a special day for all women in all cultures across this globe, for it is a day set aside for them to reflect, among other things, on the historical struggle for women's fundamental rights as full participants and decision-makers in society, which is still largely male-dominated.

This struggle is one in which women everywhere strive to first come to an understanding of the gender-based ideologies that influence socialization processes and social consciousness and serve to oppress them all over the world.

Women have come to see the public context in which their private troubles are situated, and have made the necessary political connections required, to begin the long route aimed at liberating both sexes from the oppression of social structures and values that reflect the attitudes of male domination and female subordination. Women have been the pioneers of this process of social criticism and liberating thought.

Much work in the area of women's rights remains to be done, however. The framework for male-female liberation has been developed. What is now necessary is its translation into practical, everyday living in society. It is towards this goal that the efforts of all concerned and committed men and women are directed. In this province, we look forward with anticipation to the implementation in the very near future of at least the first stage of the Transitions report. It is just a beginning.

We also look very carefully at other initiatives that are being monitored and implemented within Ontario to help women in their everyday lives, as they struggle with equal rights and with their families, across this province, in dealing with the terrible destruction of poverty. It is the hope that with the achievement of this women's movement, which enlivens the international women's movement today, that we can all be proud of the successes and the results of hard work.

The prophetic tradition of the Bible commands us to break the chains of the oppressed. International Women's Day pays special tribute to those women who have done just that and will continue in their unflinching efforts.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I am glad my friend the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston) sought unanimous consent so that each party could have an opportunity to acknowledge—although today is not International Women's Day, this parliament will not be in session next week—the fact that next Wednesday, March 8, is indeed International Women's Day in Ontario, in Canada and around the world.

I appreciate the remarks made by my friend the member for London North (Mrs. Cunningham) and I listened with interest to the remarks made by my friend the member for Scarborough West. Frankly, I regret a little bit that rather than do what is customary in this Legislature when we seek unanimous consent, he used the opportunity to question somewhat whether I was competently discharging my responsibilities as minister responsible for women's issues.

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Frankly, I think the mindset that says you have to be of a particular gender to support the interests of another gender is the very kind of thing we are trying to fight as women fight for equality in this province and in this nation.

The first International Women's Day was proclaimed at an international conference of women held in Helsinki, Finland, interestingly enough, in 1910. It commemorates a march and a demonstration in New York City by female

garment workers and textile workers in 1857, so we are going back that far.

The United Nations first sponsored International Women's Day during the International Women's Year in 1975. It was widely observed and celebrated in many countries around the world.

This special day provides an opportunity for all of us to recognize the contribution to society of women and to celebrate not only women's past achievements but the achievements to come; most important, the achievements that must come.

International Women's Day, I suggest to members, reminds us of the progress Canadian women have made towards equality. Looking back, we see that it was not until 1867 that Ontario's Dr. Emily Stowe became the first woman doctor to practise in Canada. In 1899, Ontario's Clara Brett Martin became the first Canadian female lawyer, and in 1912 Carrie Derrick became the first woman professor in a Canadian university.

Women in Ontario were given the provincial vote in 1917, finally, and won full federal franchise in 1918, finally. That was not very long ago. One wonders why it took so long. Ontario's Agnes Macphail was the first woman elected to the House of Commons in 1921. Miss Macphail became one of the first two women elected to the Ontario Legislature relatively recently—it surprises us all in fact—in 1943.

These recollections remind us that while a great deal has been accomplished, a very great deal remains to be done if women are to achieve true equality. These efforts must include all the women in Ontario, including women who are doubly disadvantaged, such as women living in less populated parts of the province, aboriginal women, women with disabilities and immigrant and visible minority women.

International Women's Day is a day to celebrate and, most important, to renew our commitment—our collective, nonpartisan commitment—to the achievement of full equality for women.

I would like to issue a general invitation at this time to all interested persons to attend an open house on Wednesday, March 8, from three until six at the main office of the Ontario women's directorate, which is at 400 University Avenue at Dundas Street. The celebration of International Women's Day, and the directorate's fifth birthday, by the way, will feature displays by a number of ministries and community groups as well as video activities and refreshments. This

occasion will give all who attend an opportunity to talk to both me and our directorate staff and to share information about women's issues.

The directorate office in Thunder Bay, by the way, is also involved in activities to celebrate International Women's Day.

Here in Toronto, I want to remind members that there will also be a public information display area in the St. Lawrence lounge of the Macdonald Block at 900 Bay Street from 11:30 in the morning until 2 p.m. that same day.

I hope all members will join us in celebrating this very special occasion and I want to wish a happy fifth birthday to the Ontario women's directorate.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

PENSION BENEFITS

Hon. Mr. Elston: Today's release of our consultation document, entitled *Building on Reform: Choices for Tomorrow's Pensions*, signals further evolution towards a fairer, better regulated and more comprehensive pension system in Ontario. With our proposal for the general application of mandatory inflation protection in private employment pension plans, it represents another first, not only in Canada but in North America.

In the course of the pension reforms of 1987, we made a commitment to mandatory indexation in Ontario. We are now setting out our proposed mechanism for honouring that commitment.

I would like to take this opportunity once again to congratulate Professor Martin Friedland and his colleagues Sydney Jackson and Clifford Pilkey of the Task Force on Inflation Protection, for a very thorough and well reasoned report. It has served us well in our deliberations.

We believe that today's proposals respect the legitimate needs both of plan members who must know that their pensions will be meaningful by the time they are received and of pension sponsors who require a consistent framework for administration. They also take into account the system of collective bargaining in Ontario.

We are mindful of the fact that in dealing with private employment pensions, we are working on behalf of the 40 per cent of the Ontario labour force who belong to plans and that we must balance their needs against those of the remaining 60 per cent who are not pension plan members but who are also taxpayers in the province.

Governments must take into account the economic and social climate in which they propose reforms to the employment pension

system. Such reforms not only can affect individual plan sponsors, but also can have an effect upon capital markets and interest rates. We are confident that by setting out our proposals for consultation at this time and by allowing phase-in periods for the major provisions in the document, we are providing a responsible framework for reform for all concerned.

Before describing briefly the highlights of our proposed reforms, I would like to set out five principles that have guided us in formulating them: the protection of pension benefits within a sound economic and responsible fiscal framework; the provision of an effective administrative framework; the provision of equitable, modern and clear employment pension standards which reflect the needs of a changing society and economy; the allowance of sufficient time to allow plan sponsors, plan members and bargaining agents to adjust to pension reform requirements, and finally, the fostering and expansion of the voluntary employment pension plan system. It is against this backdrop that the following major provisions should be judged.

First, inflation protection: The government is proposing that all employer-sponsored, defined benefit plans, which cover more than four out of five Ontario pension plan members, provide for indexing at least once a year to a minimum level of 75 per cent of the consumer price index, minus a deductible of one per cent inflation; that up to eight per cent inflation be taken into account each year, with any inflation over that figure carried forward to future low-inflation years, and that the amount of pension to be protected from inflation on a mandatory basis be limited to 60 per cent of the year's maximum pensionable earnings under the Canada pension plan. Employers, of course, may choose to do more.

The proposals would also extend inflation protection to deferred pensions under defined benefit plans. For plan members in defined contribution plans and multi-employer plans, it is proposed that they be entitled to an option of an indexed annuity or of a fixed annuity of the same commuted value.

While it is intended that inflation protection apply only to benefits earned in the future, the proposal includes inducements for employers also to provide protection against future inflation as it affects current retirees and benefits earned in the past by current workers. As well, the inducements include the use of surplus for the provision of inflation protection.

In order to allow time for plan sponsors to adjust documents and for the collective bargain-

ing process to take account of the proposals, we are proposing that indexing provisions not take effect until after a phase-in period.

Second, family law benefits: The Family Law Act, 1986 recognized for the first time in Ontario that an individual's entitlement to a pension was family property. The Pension Benefits Act, 1987 set out a number of provisions governing this issue. Experience in the past two years has indicated that in two particular areas the current provisions could be improved, and we are proposing changes in that connection.

First, the provision stating that pension benefits may be divided between spouses only when money becomes payable to the plan member, on retirement, death, termination of employment or windup of the plan, would be replaced by allowing the splitting of credits at the time of separation. In this way, an immediate interest may be transferred to the spouse of the plan member, as agreed by the parties in a domestic contract or as ordered by a court.

This approach will provide for greater consistency with the Family Law Act, 1986 and greater similarity between Ontario law and legislation in other jurisdictions. Since the receiving spouse is usually the wife, the measure represents a positive step in increased pension benefit coverage for women.

The second provision to be addressed states that the spouse of a plan member is not entitled to receive more than 50 per cent of the member's benefits accrued during the marriage, when valued at the date of separation. We now propose to permit the allocation of more than 50 per cent of the pension as valued at the time of separation, and to leave the division to the spouses themselves or to the courts. This proposal will facilitate fairer and more flexible arrangements for the division of family property.

1400

Third, a more responsible system: We are proposing a number of legislative and regulatory reforms which, while too numerous to list at this point, when taken in their entirety will enhance the protection of members' benefits and rights, increase flexibility for plan sponsors and members, lessen the administrative burden of pension plan management and increase the efficiency of the regulating body, the Pension Commission of Ontario. This will serve to make the private pension system effective and more responsive to the needs of its various clients: the pension industry, plan sponsors and members and current pensioners.

Fourth, solvency valuation: In order to maintain incentives for employers to adopt improvements to pension plans and to ensure an acceptable level of benefit security for employees, we are also proposing changes to some of the regulations to the Pension Benefits Act, 1987, covering plan valuations.

Our proposals include: clarification of entitlement to employees to ancillary benefits on plan windup; changing the funding requirement for enhanced closure benefits that are in excess of the statutory requirements, and allowing a longer funding period for benefit increases negotiated before January 1, 1988, in fairness to the parties that negotiated these increases prior to the time the regulations came into force. As well, to ensure adequate monitoring we propose that annual rather than triennial reports be required for pension plans that are significantly underfunded.

The cost increases that result from the current solvency valuation requirements could work against the longer-term interests of employees by dissuading employers, on economic grounds, from improving plans. Our proposals to amend the solvency valuation regulations will provide a measure of flexibility while maintaining benefit protection for employees.

Fifth, the pension benefits guarantee fund: We are seeking advice on the future of this fund. The PBGF, established in 1980, is a mandatory program funded primarily through plan sponsor premiums. It offers some protection for private sector defined benefit pension plans and covers less than one half of the total pension plan membership in Ontario, or one out of five members of the labour force. Coverage is limited to a monthly maximum of \$1,000 per person.

In case of a PBGF shortfall, the Ontario government can lend moneys out of the consolidated revenues to the fund. Ontario is the only province requiring its taxpayers to underwrite the risks for those covered by private pension plans. While the PBGF is an additional assurance of pension funding for those who have defined benefit pension plans, recent experience has raised the question of whether continuance of such assurance fairly apportions risk of plan failure and is fiscally responsible. The factors in such a consideration are complex and can be affected by changing economic environment.

Although no final conclusion has been reached for the future of the plan, options for consideration include the following: restructuring of the PBGF; elimination of the PBGF and extension of plan sponsor and plan member responsibility for

pension liabilities through higher funding and disclosure requirements. These two options, and other possibilities suggested in response, will be the focus of our consultation.

Sixth, expanded pension coverage: Taken in their entirety, these reforms represent a promise kept in terms of inflation protection and an enhancement of the administration of and the benefits produced by Ontario's private pension system. We cannot, however, stop there.

As members will recall, amendments to the Pension Benefits Act, 1987 provided for earlier vesting and locking in of pension credits, greater portability of benefits and extended plan membership rights to part-time employees. All these measures will have a positive influence on pension coverage, especially for women, but expanded participation must now be addressed.

For the 60 per cent of the Ontario labour force not covered by employer-sponsored plans, these reforms are of academic interest only. It is to this segment of the population that we are now turning our attention. We are committed to maintaining the private pension system on a voluntary basis and to extending its reach.

In this connection, the government is undertaking research to determine employer and employee groups that do not currently participate in employment pensions. As part of this process, we will be seeking public input to identify the barriers to increased pension coverage in matters of accessibility, affordability, education and regulatory requirements. In this way, we will pinpoint opportunities and means by which participation in employment pension plans can be increased.

In conclusion, I believe that public consultation is public awareness. This draft document, which includes draft legislation, will be subject to a public consultation period of 60 days. The material will be available to the public tomorrow afternoon at the government bookstore at 880 Bay Street in Toronto and from the Windsor Public Library and Ottawa's Access Ontario office early next week.

The consultation exercise will allow all of us to increase our awareness and understanding of the pension system in Ontario and of our individual and collective responsibilities within it.

I look forward to the debate that will arise from the publication of our proposed reforms and to meeting the various interested groups throughout the province in the course of this very important consultation period.

ASSISTANCE FOR GRAPE GROWERS

Hon. Mr. Riddell: That is a hard act to follow, but I believe I can do it with this very important announcement.

As members of the House know, the Ontario grape and wine industry has been subject to increasing competitive pressures, partially as a result of changing policies in the world trading environment.

Today, I am pleased to inform the House that, effective immediately, this government will be providing Ontario grape growers with a payment of \$2.5 million for Ontario's half of the crop price support adjustment component for 1988. We are making this payment in view of the fact that growers have not received full payment for the 1988 negotiated price, which creates uncertainty in the industry.

The price support payments are designed to bridge the gap between the wineries' purchase price, defined as the California price, and the price for grapes as negotiated by the Ontario Grape Growers' Marketing Board. This program allows the wineries to purchase Ontario grapes at the California prices, ensuring the long-term competitiveness of Ontario wineries.

We are responding to the urgent needs of Ontario grape producers, and I encourage the federal government to act likewise. We would have preferred a joint announcement, but given the urgency of this matter, our farmers could not afford to wait. The balance of the 1988 price support payments are the responsibility of the federal government.

A letter of intent was signed by this government, the federal government and the Ontario Grape Growers' Marketing Board in December 1988 to implement a 12-year, \$100-million, cost-shared grape and wine adjustment program. The components agreed upon in this federal-provincial program included assistance for acreage reduction, crop price support, grape quality and productivity, wine promotion, wine store tax credit and the federal purchase of surplus grapes.

This payment is the first of a 12-year program. Payments will decrease throughout the life of the program. This assistance will be delivered to producers through the Ontario Grape Growers' Marketing Board. Ontario's contribution to the remaining components of the program will begin once the federal government releases its share of the \$100-million package.

Until that time, the immediate payment of Ontario's share of the crop price support component will assist growers with the preparation of this year's crop.

RESPONSES

ASSISTANCE FOR GRAPE GROWERS

Mr. B. Rae: I want to respond, first of all very briefly to the statement made by the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell).

I think it is fair to say that it is more than just a pity, it is a shame that we do not yet have a statement from the government of Ontario and a clear statement from the federal government that is entirely acceptable to the grape growers themselves as to the governments' plans for the future of this industry.

It is a responsibility of the provincial government as well as a responsibility of the federal government.

1410

No doubt the minister hopes that by making this announcement today he will be addressing the problem. I can tell him that, from my discussions with members of the grape-growing community and from people who are involved in this industry, the amounts which he is talking about today are completely inadequate in terms of dealing with the size of the real losses that are being experienced by the grape farmers of this province.

This is a problem that will not go away. The members who are heckling from the Liberal side say, "At least, we have done our half." I can tell them their half is not enough, the federal government's half is not enough, and this government is presiding over the destruction of an industry, without doing enough to see that those farmers are assisted and aided at the time of their need.

PENSION BENEFITS

Mr. B. Rae: I want to turn my attention now to the statement that was made today by the Minister of Financial Institutions (Mr. Elston) and to say to him, very directly, that the document is appropriately called Choices for Tomorrow's Pensions. If ever a document could be called tomorrow and living in tomorrowland, it is this document.

This government has betrayed a fundamental commitment that it made to the workers of this province with respect to indexing. It has delayed the introduction of indexing. It has put it off until well into the 21st century, in terms of its full impact. In fact, if we look at the two-, three- and four-year phase-in and the 15-year phase-in for retroactivity, it is no exaggeration to say that this is a 50-year plan. At the end of that 50-year plan, it will give retired workers in this province who

have the benefit of a pension plan far less than they wanted, far less than they have a right to expect, and nothing in comparison to what they were told and promised in the hand held out by the Liberal Party of this province with respect to indexing.

This is as big a birthday present for Conrad Black as he could ever have legitimately expected.

If we look at the increase that is shown in the government's own report, an increase in the assets of our pension funds from \$15 billion at the beginning of the 1970s to \$150 billion today, the workers of this province have not shared in the growth of those funds. Thanks to the Liberal Party of this province, they will not share in the growth of those funds, and they will not be protected when it comes to inflation.

We can document, in dollar terms—and I will be asking the minister very direct questions about this—just how much he and the employers of this province are robbing workers in what inflation is costing them. People who are retired today have seen the value of their plans go down by some 50 per cent since the early 1970s.

The minister has not done a thing for any worker who is retired today—not a thing. He has done nothing for all those workers who have yet to retire in terms of their past contributions—not a thing. He has restricted, in the most hard-hearted way, in a way that only benefits the pension companies and the employers in this province—he has ensured that workers will not receive the full loss of inflation when it comes time for them to retire.

The minister has screwed them on the formula; he has screwed them in terms of reducing it by one per cent, and he has shafted them by limiting the amount that has to be covered to \$16,000, which is 60 per cent of the maximal earnings under the Canada pension plan.

That is what this minister has done. He has delivered less than suggested by the task force set up some two years ago by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. Kwinter). He has promised less, in effect, than what Mr. Grossman promised back in 1984.

This document, as far as workers are concerned, is a disaster. To say that it is the fulfilment of a promise only shows that to be a Liberal is not even to understand the meaning of the word promise.

Mr. Harris: I want to make a few observations in response to this statement today by the Minister of Financial Institutions regarding the

consultation draft on pension reforms and indexing.

I believe it was in February 1987 that Bill 170, the Pension Benefits Act, received second reading in this chamber. Now, in March 1989, the last day of the session, we are getting our first look at the government's proposals on pension indexing.

No doubt there will be another reannouncement, there will be another ringing declaration of intent in the government's throne speech in April. We are all breathless in anticipation of how quickly this government can move.

All that aside, it is a complex matter. Pension indexing requires more than an off-the-cuff response based on the only brief review that we have had of the statement in the consultation draft.

Mr. B. Rae: Somebody's got to do it.

Mr. Harris: Indeed, I would say, on that interjection by the member for York South, that I did not hear the leader of the New Democratic Party say anything in his remarks that I found I could disagree with.

Hon. Mr. Scott: You're going to replace Runciman as the left wing of the Tory party.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Now we've got you guys cozying up.

Mr. Harris: If that's a problem for you so be it, it is a problem for you.

The minister has had two years to respond to the issue. He has had more than a year to review the recommendations of the Friedland report. He may be sure that we will take our time to take a look at what it has taken the minister two years to look at. That being said, there are a few general concerns that I want to bring to the minister's attention, concerns which are not unique to this party, but will no doubt be raised by other parties and by other groups interested in this matter during the next 60 days.

First, I believe we do have to look closely at the impact of indexing on the continued availability of defined benefit plans. I believe all parties would agree that indexation should not, by its nature, create disincentives for the creation and the continuation of defined benefit pension plans. That is something that must be looked at carefully and with some sensitivity as we move in this area.

Second, as the minister noted, 60 per cent of our labour force is not covered by employer-sponsored pension plans of any type. I would hope that the government's research would look at the effect of the proposed formula on the

opportunities and the desire for expanded pension coverage, especially with regard to affordability.

It may prove—and we do not know until the work is done, until we have had the people involved, and I hope we will be able to work in a consultative fashion as opposed to an antagonistic fashion—that the proposed formula would militate against extended coverage in certain sectors. Therefore, it may have to be more flexible if the goal of expanded coverage, one of the goals that I believe this government ought to be interested in, is to be achieved.

I just wanted to express those few thoughts to indicate that we will examine the matter in a thoughtful way. Those are a few points for the minister's consideration. I hope, as I am sure all members do, that this government will move a little more quickly in the future than it has in the past on this. We look forward to hearing the views of members, sponsors, employers and labour unions on the proposals that the minister has put forward today.

ASSISTANCE FOR GRAPE GROWERS

Mr. Villeneuve: In the few seconds left, please allow me to congratulate the government on following the lead of the British Columbia government in supporting the Ontario wine and grape industry, as is long overdue. The minister has known that the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade would, indeed, very adversely affect the wine industry in Ontario. It was long overdue to have the support that was announced today. I am sorry I do not have a little more time.

1420

ORAL QUESTIONS

PENSION BENEFITS

Mr. B. Rae: I want to get back to the Minister of Financial Institutions and ask him some questions about this great pension robbery, which he announced just a few moments ago.

I want to just go over with the minister how the robbery works. First of all, he says that he is only going to partially compensate for indexation. Then he says that he is only going to compensate for part of a worker's salary—not the whole salary but in fact only 60 per cent of the Canada pension plan maximum, which means it is only about \$16,000 that we are talking about fully compensating—and then he talks about the delay. He does not give us what definite phase-in period it is going to be, but it is going to take a long time to phase in, even once the legislation is passed, and then it will only apply prospectively, so it

only applies to his pension and anybody's else's pension for the future.

I wonder if the minister can tell us: Does he not feel a sense of responsibility to those workers who are already retired, to those workers who are not going to get anything for their past contributions, and in fact to every worker in the province who is being systematically robbed of what he and she needs in order—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The consultation paper has decidedly been put together to provide a balance in ensuring the long-term viability of pension plans and ensuring that there will be the fiscal framework within which, over the long term, pension plans can be maintained and advanced in the province.

I can tell the honourable gentleman that this would represent a minimum standard that in fact could very well be surpassed as a result of the voluntary ad hoc adjustments which occur in pension plans, about which he should know. They have occurred on a regular basis within some of the very large plans, and in fact the honourable gentleman should know quite well that in a number of areas it is within the collective bargaining tradition within this province that pensions have been negotiated which would go beyond, perhaps, the formula established here.

I think this presentation of a document, designed to elicit response from the communities who are interested in pensions, shows balance and also provides a basis upon which real and concerted discussion can be held that is designed to improve inflation protection, along with a considerable number of other items in the pension plan system in Ontario.

Mr. B. Rae: I did not hear an answer to my question. The investment returns on the pension industry in the last 15 years have gone up 15, 20 per cent per year. There has been a huge surplus accrued in those plans and an enormous increase in those assets.

The money that is in those plans, in our view, belongs to workers, has been put there on behalf of workers, and it should be put to use on behalf of workers and not on behalf of capital and not on behalf of employers, not on behalf of the Conrad Blacks of this world. It should be there for the workers of this province and that is where the money belongs. That is the difference between our position and the position the minister is putting forward.

Mr. Speaker: Is that the member's question?

Mr. B. Rae: I want to ask the minister again: Take the worker who retires in 2035 on an

equivalent of a \$30,000-a-year salary; 35 times two per cent, 70 per cent of that, is \$21,000. Let's say inflation in the year 2036 is running at 10 per cent. Can the minister tell me why under his formula that worker would be getting \$69 a month, whereas if he was getting full compensation for inflation he would be getting \$175 per month? Why is the minister robbing him of nearly two thirds—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Before I ask the minister to respond, I just wonder if all members could be a little more careful with the words they use.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The honourable gentleman can make out any example he wishes to; I will be pleased to respond to it when I have a chance to work out some of the numbers.

I am obviously not economically trained, as that wizard over there is, but I can tell the honourable gentleman that he is not alone in his concern for dealing with issues of indexation and in fact alone in being concerned about protection of pension plans in general, their existence and even the extension of pension plans beyond those who have them now.

That is a real concern for us. It is a real concern upon which is based a presentation of a document which is designed to elicit discussion around how we can improve pension plans. That is what this document is about.

The member misunderstands, obviously. He has not read it. I do not blame him for not having read it, because it is a considerable document which has been prepared for consultation and just now released.

I am sure that after the member has a chance to respond more reasonably to the items which are addressed as issues within the report, he will be much more balanced and reasoned in his understanding of the basis upon which the report is made available.

Having said that, I can tell the honourable gentleman that I believe that over the next 60 days we will receive the type of input from all areas which will be helpful in ultimately bringing forward legislation to this House. But it is not the time, at this point, to have someone grandstanding about a report on which he has not had time to assemble enough expertise.

Mr. B. Rae: I appreciate the lecture from the minister. I just want to go over the ground with him, and he can just answer yes or no. Can he confirm that in fact the Friedland report, which I am sure he has read and which came out some two years ago, called for inflation protection up to 10 per cent? He is now calling for protection up to only eight per cent. Can he confirm that?

So, he has taken that away from Friedland.

Can he also confirm, at the same time, that there was nothing in the Friedland report that limited, that raised the question of a maximum that was to be insured?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Can the member explain why the New Democratic Party never implemented this in Manitoba?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Or Saskatchewan?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Or British Columbia?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I am receiving a considerable amount of assistance from my colleagues in trying to address myself to issues of the lack of concern by New Democrats in other provinces. I do not think I need to respond to those, but I will respond to a couple of the other items.

I can tell the honourable gentleman that the Friedland report, along with input from other areas, was a very important item and element in our consideration and development of the discussion draft. It does not mean that we followed all the recommendations without exception, but we did provide several balances with respect to the report and the analysis of it.

The time of reflection that the honourable member will give it, I am sure, in the the upcoming weeks will provide him with a sense of the balance which we have provided, which is designed to ensure and protect the integrity of the pension system in Ontario and in fact designed to assist us in expanding pension coverage in Ontario.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Mr. B. Rae: I have a question to the Minister of Labour. Yesterday the chairman of the Ontario Human Rights Commission made some comments with respect to Bill 162. The chairman made two observations in a lengthy document which I am sure the minister has seen, in which he really levels the most serious charges with respect to the two critical aspects of Bill 162.

The chairman says, first, that the section on reinstatement is incompatible with the Human Rights Code; and second, he says that the discrimination on the grounds of age, in terms of the permanent pensions that are contained in the plan, is also incompatible with the Human Rights Code.

Having come to terms with this most serious criticism of Bill 162—in fact, I think a devastating critique of Bill 162—can the minister tell us why he will not simply withdraw the bill and produce

compensation reform which is at least compatible with Ontario's commitment to human rights?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I regret the fact that the Leader of the Opposition has not portrayed in an accurate way the comments that the chairman of the Human Rights Commission made yesterday, particularly in respect of reinstatement.

I am going to try to do that in the context of my answer. If he reads through the brief again—I am sure he has read through it once, but if he reads through it again he will find that what, in substance, the chairman of the Human Rights Commission said is this: "We have a mandate to deal with the reinstatement of working people, or for that matter anyone who has disabilities, because the Human Rights Code gives us that mandate."

"And so," the commissioner says, "given that we have a mandate which perhaps expands beyond the terms of reinstatement that are in Bill 162, we think it better if you leave the business of reinstatement to us and that you not include reinstatement in Bill 162, so that working people who have an injury, instead of seeking the assistance of the board on reinstatement, would come over to us and we will act on their behalf because we have a broader jurisdiction."

The commissioner is right. They do have a broader jurisdiction, but it does not—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

1430

Mr. B. Rae: Let us make it very clear. The minister has stated in this House there two aspects of this bill to which he is wedded. They are the reforms which he thinks are the most important. He, first of all, has the stuff on reinstatement; and second of all, he has the stuff on the dual award system, that part of the dual award is made up of a permanent partial disability pension.

The commissioner says there is total confusion with respect to how the law on reinstatement can be fairly administered between the Ontario Human Rights Code and Bill 162. He says that the minister's section on permanent partial disabilities, because it discriminates on the grounds of age—that is to say, because it gives somebody over 45 less than somebody under 45 on a gradual basis—is discriminatory and in his view incompatible with the code, and certainly incompatible with the spirit of the code. He has knocked out the two foundations for the bill.

Why does the minister not withdraw the bill and come up with something—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question has been asked.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The leader of the New Democratic Party, along with other people in this province, has argued so very effectively that there ought to be mechanisms within the Workers' Compensation Act to help workers who want to get back to their old jobs be reinstated in their old jobs. I guess my greatest surprise at this point is to hear him in this House, at this time, actually advocating that we simply ignore or eliminate that part of the bill and that we forget about giving those opportunities and simply say that we will leave it all to the Ontario Human Rights Commission. With all due respect to the commission, it has dealt in its history with 39 cases of reinstatement of disabled people back into the workplace. I think that is shameful.

Mr. B. Rae: I want to say the minister has completely and utterly misrepresented the arguments and questions which I put to him today.

Interjections.

Mr. B. Rae: Completely.

Mr. Speaker: Order. With respect, will the member withdraw?

Mr. B. Rae: I will withdraw what I have said.

Mr. Speaker: Order. You will? Thank you.

Mr. B. Rae: I will withdraw the word "misrepresented" because I am not allowed to say it.

Interjections.

Mr. B. Rae: I will withdraw it.

Mr. Speaker: Your supplementary?

Interjections.

Mr. B. Rae: It is withdrawn.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: That is why you withdraw it, because you are not allowed to say it.

Hon. Mr. Scott: That is why we have a criminal law: to keep them under control.

Mr. Mackenzie: Oh come on, Judge Ross.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. B. Rae: What about the comment by the Attorney General (Mr. Scott)?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. B. Rae: My final supplementary is to the same minister, and I want to ask him a simple question. What the human rights commissioner has said is that he does not think the minister's first part is workable on reinstatement. He does not think it is compatible entirely with his jurisdiction under the code and he has real problems with how it is going to be enforced. He

has problems with the reinstatement rights of people who are not injured at work but who are injured elsewhere in comparison with workers who are injured on the job. That is the first thing he said.

The second thing he said is that when the minister discriminates in his permanent pensions on account of age—that is to say, when the minister gives a 50-year-old worker less than a 40-year-old worker, which is what his bill does—he is discriminating on the grounds of age. He does not think that is fair, or sustainable, or workable. These are two very fundamental criticisms of the minister's approach to legislation.

I wonder if the minister would not take into account what the commissioner has said, recognize that is quite fundamental to what he says he is trying to do and rework a bill that is compatible with the Ontario Human Rights Code and the human rights laws of this province. That is all I am asking.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Mr. Speaker, that is quite a lengthy question. I hope you indulge me with sufficient time to answer it as comprehensively as I can.

First, with respect to reinstatement, I want to assure the Leader of the Opposition that nothing in Bill 162 limits the authority of the human rights commission to serve someone who seeks its assistance to get his job back, if that person has a disability and comes within the jurisdiction. What Bill 162 does is simply add another remedy—not as broad and as encompassing as the human rights commission, I acknowledge, but specifically available to injured workers.

If an injured worker in this province, after Bill 162 is passed, is not satisfied with the service that he would get under the reinstatement provisions of the Workers' Compensation Act, he has every right to take his case to the human rights commission and say, "I want the assistance of the commission rather than the board." I do not think there is anything wrong with that, for there to be a multiplicity of remedies, for there to be yet another source. I think if the Leader of the Opposition thought about that, on reflection he might agree.

I want to say just a word on the question of discrimination in respect of age. Everything that I have heard from the critics in his party who sit on the standing committee on resources development is that there is not enough certainty in the bill, that there is too much arbitrariness. I think—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING

Mr. Brandt: My question is for the Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet. The Chairman of Management Board will recall the recent report of the Provincial Auditor where he made observations, which were rather similar to the ones I had raised with the minister, related to some of the unnecessary expenditures that were taking place in the government relative to certain advertisements.

I have raised this matter with the minister on previous occasions. I wonder, since this is the last day of this sitting of the House, if the minister could share with us today what actions he has taken in concert with the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) relative to this matter, which at one time was costing this province many thousands of dollars in needless expenditures. Could the minister indicate what action he is taking with regard to that matter?

Hon. Mr. Elston: We have done a considerable amount of work with respect to advertisements. One of the things we have done is I have taken a look at the manner in which advertisements are specifically placed for the recruitment of staff, if that is required, and where possible worked on a format that reduces size and limits as far as possible the number of words used to describe the position without preventing a reasonable explanation of that being obtained by the reader.

Because of our economic situation, we have also taken a look at the manner in which advertisements have been placed for certain professional groups that are seen to be hard to recruit—that is, being in short supply—to ensure that we are getting value for the dollar that is being spent.

I can tell the honourable gentleman that considerable progress has been made, through the activities of the human resources secretariat, to ensure a much more co-ordinated response to advertisements.

Mr. Brandt: I do want to be helpful on this last day.

Interjection.

Mr. Brandt: My friend anticipated there might be a supplementary on this. One of the things the auditor did recommend to the minister, and this resulted from some duplication of advertising that was taking place in English and in French with respect to the Ministry of the Environment, the ministry of the gentleman who sits right next to my friend, one of the suggestions was that there was really very little

need to place French advertising in an English-language newspaper. One of the least expensive ways to get around this was simply to put a French line in the bottom of the English ad, giving information as to where additional information could be received from the ministry. Quite obviously, there is no problem with placing French-language ads in French-language newspapers.

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On February 17, in the *Toronto Star*, an English-language daily—

Mr. Speaker: The question is?

Mr. Brandt: —there is an English and French ad, which is completely contrary to what the Provincial Auditor recommended to the minister and the various ministers; and in fact, Mr. Speaker, if I might—

Mr. Speaker: By way of question?

Mr. Brandt: —and which is against the policy that was established by cabinet relative to this form of advertising. How is this allowed to happen some three months after the auditor's report?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I do not know the particulars of the ad in question, but I would be pleased to look into the situation that surrounds it.

I can tell the honourable gentleman, though, that because the *Toronto Star* is a paper of renown not only in Ontario but nationally, it is read in places other than just English-language households. I think it is not unreasonable to expect that it is opportune sometimes to place advertisements in the newspaper in both official languages in Canada.

I am pleased at this particular time to look into the issue of the advertisement in this case. I will see if in fact, as he claims, it does violate the guidelines, but I can tell the member that one of the things that I am quite concerned about is that as far as possible we ensure that advertisements for positions in the Ontario public service be made available to all the people in the province, by going through not only the English-language and the French-language papers but also through the multicultural press—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Elston: —as far as possible, to ensure that everyone has a sound and firm understanding of what positions are available and what in fact the qualifications are for the filling of the position.

Mr. Brandt: We support the minister's efforts in getting out the message of the government in

connection with some of these undertakings, but as the minister will see from the ad I have just sent over to him, it does not really fall into the category of anything that he has described, as I understood from his comments.

It is interesting to note that these dual ads were also placed in an Ottawa newspaper; Ottawa does happen to have a daily French newspaper. They were placed in the *London Free Press* as well as in the *Toronto Star*. I wonder if the minister, in connection with this issue, which involves many thousands upon thousands of dollars during the course of the year, and during a time when this government indicates it has difficulty paying for a broad range of programs—

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. Brandt: —will the minister give the assurance to this House that he will make every effort to stop that kind of duplication of advertising which we feel is absolutely unnecessary?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I think it is important to know that an issue which is being advertised, as this one is for the receipt of materials in regard to a public inquiry, ought to be advertised in both official languages and broadly distributed to every person who would be reading the newspaper.

The member is saying certain things about how he wishes not to advertise, for instance, in certain papers in French and in English. That is certainly his prerogative. With respect to this type of advertisement, I will take a look at what in fact is available to address this person's concern. I can tell the member that we do commit ourselves to making sure that government in Ontario is accessible to people who speak a number of languages, not just English and French, and we take the opportunity of advertising where possible.

The suggestions of the Provincial Auditor are always welcome—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. A new question to which minister?

Mr. Brandt: To the Minister of Education, who was here. I can stand that question down, Mr. Speaker, if you would like, and we can go to our next question.

Mr. Speaker: If that is your wish—oh, you may go ahead; the minister is arriving.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Mr. Brandt: Perhaps the minister could listen to the question while he is arriving to take his seat. As the minister is aware, there are a number

of serious problems facing education these days, not the least of which is the issue of the 220,000 portable classrooms that we have—220,000 students, I should say, who are being taught in portable classrooms. We have a critical shortage—

Interjection.

Mr. Brandt: The number is bad enough either way. It is 220,000 children, as the minister knows, who do not have permanent classrooms that they are being taught in.

There is a critical shortage of teachers, and now we find that there are a number of unqualified teachers who are also in the system because we cannot get enough teachers who are qualified to teach our students at the moment.

Against that backdrop, could the minister perhaps advise this House as to why he advised the select committee that it was its highest priority, in so far as the minister was concerned, to study the length of the school year as opposed to dealing with some of these critical issues, just a few of which I have placed before him? Why is he not having the committee deal with these issues?

Hon. Mr. Ward: The leader of the third party has of course raised quite a variety of issues in the preamble to his question. I will do the best I can to respond to some of his concerns in my answer.

First of all, the honourable member rightfully points out that indeed there is a large number of students in this province in portable classrooms. It is for that reason that this government moved to greatly increase the available capital funding for school boards across this province, an increase of some 400 per cent from the level established by his government some years ago.

I believe we are moving in a very fundamental way to help boards fulfil their responsibilities under the act to provide accommodation by greatly increasing the amount of grants that are available. In fact, that was one of the prime recommendations of the Macdonald commission, I am sure the member will recall, that the amount of capital funds be greatly increased.

In addition, the member talks about concerns over the supply of the number of teachers. He will know that in 1988 there were in excess of 6,000 new entrants to the teaching profession in Ontario for this year, all qualified teachers, certainly enough to meet the existing demands; and I believe that measures taken by both my ministry and by the Ministry of Colleges and Universities will be sufficient to meet the ongoing needs of the system.

In terms of the priorities of the select committee—this is the last point of his preamble, Mr. Speaker, if you will indulge me—I was asked by the select committee at the beginning of its hearings last year as to what areas it deemed the most appropriate to explore. I indicated to them that I would—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. Brandt: I raised a number of questions with the minister in regard to some of the serious and critical matters that have to be faced by education. He indicates that there are sufficient teachers in the system and that there will be sufficient teachers. He knows full well that a shortage is imminent with respect to qualified teachers.

But of concern to me is what the minister is doing in connection with the select committee. He did in fact indicate that the select committee should engage itself in the study of the school year, the school term, as opposed to some of these other very important matters that have to be addressed. He himself indicated that there will be an important announcement this fall in connection with funding in terms of education, if I am correct in paraphrasing what he said. He also indicated that it may be another six months before the question of pooling, which is another important funding issue, would be responded to by his ministry.

Why will the minister not allow the select committee to look carefully at the questions of funding education, since it will be fully six months before he even deals with this issue of pooling, which he indicates is very sensitive—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. I think there is a question there somewhere.

Hon. Mr. Ward: As I was saying, when the select committee began its process of gathering input from the broader educational community—from teachers, from trustees, from parents at large—the committee did come and ask what issues we would prefer to have it address. We indicated to them at that time that we thought a focus on the quality of education in our elementary and secondary schools was of fundamental importance, an aspect where I believe many parents and many groups in this province would like to have input. Frankly, my advice to the committee was to concentrate its efforts in this area, and I think the member demeans the very valuable work of that committee if he is suggesting that is an inappropriate approach.

In terms of the issue of funding, I gave an undertaking to the committee that when it looked at the substantial research that had been done on

the quality issues, I would certainly wait for its input before moving on that agenda. At the same time, I indicated to them that the changes in the financing of elementary and secondary education, in my view, could not wait for further study. We had two to three years of study prior to this year. We have moved on a number of fronts, increasing the level of provincial support on approved expenditures—

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Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. Brandt: The minister talked about increasing funding. He knows full well that the percentage of provincial funding has now gone below 40 per cent. He also recognizes that in the coming year the estimates are that there will be some 5,000 new teachers required, with something like 4,300 graduates. There will in fact be a shortfall.

In light of the fact that we have some very serious and critical problems that have to be faced by education, why is the minister diverting the attention of the committee to a matter that is not as critical, namely the length of the school year, when we have to address issues that have to be faced today? Why is he not letting the committee deal with those issues, come to grips with issues like who is going to pay for education, as opposed—

Mr. Speaker: Order. That is the second time the question has been asked.

Hon. Mr. Ward: I just want to point out that the leader of the third party continues to contradict himself. First of all, he indicates there is a requirement, in his view, of 5,000 teachers per year. I indicated in my initial response that this year alone there are over 6,000 new entrants to the teaching profession.

He began this whole exchange with the concern over the number of students in portable classrooms. He will know that some jurisdictions around the globe have extended the school year to 12 months in order to ease some of the capital burden. Frankly, that is an area and an issue that I believe should be looked at properly, with the appropriate amount of input.

On the financial side, I point out to the member that many of the studies and all of the input that was received over that two- or three-year process clearly indicated the government should look to moving its rate of support on approved expenditures. That was clearly a recommendation of much public input from throughout this province. We have increased that support on approved expenditures. The member will know full

well, in our shared responsibilities with boards, I do not believe that we—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. New question, the member for Cambridge.

CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS

Mr. Farnan: To the Minister of Correctional Services: The situation at the Guelph Correctional Centre exemplifies the concerns of correctional officers across the province with regard to the ministry's implementation of salary compression and restructuring of institutional staffing patterns.

As of February 20, 12 positions for OM-14 at Guelph Correctional Centre were posted. Of the 24 CO-3s currently on staff, 20 have been seconded to OM-14 positions for at least three months and up to half of these officers have been seconded to the OM-14 positions for a second three-month period.

By way of question to the minister, why has the ministry extended this area of search to fill the 12 OM-14 positions to include Guelph, Wellington and Waterloo, when there are obviously so many qualified applicants at the Guelph Correctional Centre already? Why is the same thing happening across the province?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I would be glad to get back to the member as far as extending the area of search is concerned, but I would like to talk to him a little bit about the point he raises. As he knows, through the collective bargaining process over the last few years, the line workers' salaries have greatly increased. We have had a salary compression problem within the ministry and managers who directly supervise some of these people are being paid very near the level of the people they supervise. Therefore, there needed to be a reorganization in the ministry in order to get all the salaries in line with each other. That is why we are making these changes today.

Mr. Farnan: The minister should try to listen to the question.

In the summary of recommendations of the 1986 Gasteiger task force study on the Guelph Correctional Centre, recommendation 3, under promotions, reads, "That priority consideration be given to the staff of the Guelph Correctional Centre for promotion to the CO-3, OM-14 and OM-15 levels."

Further, on January 10, 1989, guidelines to regional directors that appeared in a memorandum from the assistant deputy minister, operations division, suggested, "The area of search for these competitions should be limited to individu-

al institutions, but could be widened because of local circumstances."

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. Farnan: Will the minister recognize that staff morale is being undermined by the manner in which this compression and restructuring is taking place? Will he intervene to ensure that competition is limited to within the institutions, where there are obviously more than enough qualified individuals to fill the OM-14 positions?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I would be pleased to bring this particular concern to the attention of my deputy minister and get back to the member next week.

ONTARIO CENTRE FOR FARM MACHINERY AND FOOD PROCESSING TECHNOLOGY

Mr. Villeneuve: My question is to the Minister of Agriculture and Food. The minister may be aware of the government's decision to close the Ontario Centre for Farm Machinery and Food Processing Technology in Chatham. At a cost to taxpayers of some \$14 million, the centre helped to create over \$500 million in sales and helped to create over 1,000 jobs, more than half of them on a full-time basis.

Given the minister's self-serving statements during the free trade debate about the food processing industry and its supposed problems after free trade, and also given the fact that his new Food Industry Advisory Committee has not even had time to accomplish anything, is it not a bit premature to wind up the centre before the minister even knows what his own committee might recommend to him?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: I do not think so. As the honourable member knows, the Premier's Council spent quite a bit of time looking at the food processing industry in this province and what may happen to the industry, particularly in light of the free trade agreement, if we do not focus some attention on it. That is exactly what we are doing.

We do have a food processing strategy established. One of the parts of that strategy was to put together a Food Industry Advisory Committee. We have that in place—or it will be—and all the members will be named on that committee before too long. One of the things they will be looking at is how they can maybe integrate some of the components of the Chatham tech centre.

The fact of the matter is that we have to broaden our focus. We cannot just keep a very narrow focus. This was the problem we were

running into with the Chatham tech centre: too narrow a focus. We will be incorporating some of the components of that Chatham tech centre into our agricultural colleges, for example. We are looking at other areas for other components of the program as well, particularly the machinery part of the program.

Mr. Villeneuve: I am afraid the advisory committee will not have a great deal to advise about whenever the tech centre is closed down. The government appointed two assistant deputy ministers as observers at the tech centre board meetings, one from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and one from the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology. Neither one attended any meetings.

Will the minister admit now that the closing of this tech centre was strictly a political decision taken in spite of all the evidence that the centre was indeed successful? They have a track record. Indeed, an expansion was required, as opposed to a shutdown. Will the minister not substantiate that in light of all the things he said about free trade and food processing?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: No, it certainly was not a political decision. If the honourable member really knew what he was talking about, he would know that these technology centres were set up on a five-year basis. The fact of the matter is that their five-year terms have run out or are due to expire.

What we are saying is that to broaden the focus, we are prepared to let the Chatham tech centre expire in the time it was designed to do so. We will be taking components of that program and working them into other areas, as I have already indicated: into our agricultural colleges for the educational part of it; into another area we are looking at right now—I do not want to give any details at the present time as I do not know whether it is going to be a go or not—for the machinery part.

So it is not the case that we are simply curtailing any activities that are going on there. Any activities that have been started will be continued, but other activities will be taking place in other institutions, facilities or areas of the province.

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NUCLEAR SAFETY

Mrs. Stoner: I have a question for the Minister of Energy. I have been informed there was an incident at the Pickering nuclear generating station that was detected some time on Tuesday of this week. Can the minister give the

House details of this incident and tell us if the incident at any time posed a risk to public safety?

Hon. Mr. Wong: I would like to begin by thanking the member for Durham West for her question. First of all, I have been assured that at no time did the routine test situation last Tuesday pose any risk to public or worker safety. In doing these routine tests, Ontario Hydro once a year tests what are called pressure relief valves. It usually does them on a rotation basis. It does about one per month.

On Tuesday evening, it discovered a problem with one of the valves and informed the Atomic Energy Control Board of Canada, which provides its operating licence. The AECB, of course, is the federal agency responsible for the operational safety and operations of Ontario's reactors. It said to Ontario Hydro: "Correct the situation. We will give you 24 hours to do it." Ontario Hydro did so. In conclusion, the AECB reviewed the situation again and was satisfied it had been resolved with absolutely no risk to public or worker safety.

Mrs. Stoner: On the question of the information to the AECB, can the minister go further and tell me and the House what the reporting mechanisms are on such incidents between the government and the utility?

Hon. Mr. Wong: This government, of course, is committed to a well-educated and well-informed public. That is one of the reasons, for example, that we have introduced amendments to the Power Corporation Act. As a government, we want, on behalf of the people, an open process.

I am personally reviewing the situation and the procedures of Tuesday's situation. I think one of the valid questions to ask is, can the normal reporting procedures be improved? I have specifically asked my staff to arrange a meeting with Mr. Franklin, the chief executive officer of Ontario Hydro, as soon as possible so that we can discuss this further.

I know that all the people in this province, as well as the people in the member's riding who live in that area, are interested in ensuring that there is a timely and an informed release of information to the public.

FUNDING FOR WATER SYSTEM

Miss Martel: I have a question for the Minister of Northern Development concerning funding for a communal water system in my riding. In September 1987, the Ministry of the Environment concluded that its private assistance water upgrading program had not worked

for residents in Wanapitei East in my riding. It stated that a communal system was the only answer and that it would cost some \$2 million.

At that point, I wrote to his ministry, the Ministry of Transportation and the Ministry of the Environment to ask officials to meet with regional officials in order to determine how much money the provincial government would put into the project. Finally, in November 1988, the Ministry of the Environment agreed to provide 75 per cent towards the communal system. His ministry, however, has now decided that a financial impact study is required before it will determine how much money it will give.

Given that his ministry officials have participated in this whole project from the beginning, I would like to ask the minister why his ministry would now demand an impact study to determine how much funding there will be, or if he will give any funding at all.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: I will take notice of that question from the member for Sudbury East and I will respond to her by letter. I will check into this immediately.

Miss Martel: Ministry officials met with regional officials in Sudbury last week and told them that this impact study was going to be required, and that until such time as it was done, they could not give either myself or the community any commitment in terms of funding. Since this has gone on for almost two years now, I would like to ask the minister how soon he will get to this and when we are going to get a definite commitment on funding from the ministry.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: As the member knows, my ministry is a top-off ministry on those projects. On that one, officials from my office met with the mayor or the reeve from that area last week at the Ontario Good Roads Association convention. My staff will look into this and I will give an answer in a few weeks as to what is going on. Really, I thought this thing was on.

SALE OF GOVERNMENT LANDS

Mr. J. M. Johnson: My question is to the Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet. On February 22, the Minister of Government Services (Mr. Patten) announced the sale of 185 acres of land in the city of Cambridge. The price tag was \$4.4 million or about \$24,000 per acre. The industry commissioner's office in Cambridge readily admits that the true market value of this land is between \$90,000 and \$130,000 per acre. This means his government received, at best, one quarter of the true value of this property.

This single real estate transaction represents a financial loss to his government of \$12 million. Could the minister please explain why this land was sold at one quarter of its true market value.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I will gladly look into the matter for the honourable gentleman and consult with the Minister of Government Services concerning the sale.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I had intended to ask a question of the minister, who is not available. Neither the Premier (Mr. Peterson) nor the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) is available, so I thought the Chairman of the Management Board, being the most knowledgeable person left, could answer.

I suppose, since it is only a \$12-million loss, it has not been brought to his attention. But since his government has set a precedent by this \$12-million gift to the city of Cambridge, is his government now prepared to extend similar financial benefits to other municipalities in Ontario that wish to acquire industrial land?

Hon. Mr. Elston: As I advised the honourable gentleman before, I will look into the details of the transaction and get back to him. I do not know that we have any industrial land in Mount Forest, but if I can find that out and his home community is interested in some of the land, I am sure he will make a forceful presentation and I will be pleased to advise him how he can make that presentation to the Minister of Government Services.

RECYCLING

Mr. Dietsch: I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. We are all familiar with the blue box curbside recycling program, which in fact is operating successfully in my own riding of St. Catharines-Brock. Some of my constituents, however, have indicated to me that they would like to see more blue boxes in many different locations, such as apartment buildings, so that we may save some of our resources and divert some of our garbage from our landfill sites.

I would like to ask the minister to update the members of this House on the progress in expanding the blue box program and in recycling initiatives in general.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: That is an excellent question. I would like to tell the member that even as this question is directed to me, as in previous question periods, the clock is moving and in fact the number of households on the blue box program has expanded rather considerably.

I can tell him that it is well over 1.2 million households in Ontario. Something I think mem-

bers, particularly the northern members, would be interested in is that I met with and announced with my colleague the Minister of Northern Development (Mr. Fontaine) that a joint funding program involving our two ministries has been developed that will help the northern municipalities in their recycling program.

We want to expand the scope of the program, as well, and the member has made some excellent suggestions. I want to tell him that the cities of Toronto, Mississauga, Ottawa and Guelph all have pilot programs demonstrating how apartment buildings can become involved in the process. We know that would be significant. Office waste paper recycling projects have been implemented in places such as Niagara region, Toronto, London, Hamilton and Windsor.

Hon. Mr. Scott: Okay, Mr. Speaker, call him out.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Well, there are a number of directions in which we could go, but perhaps the member will address that in a supplementary question.

Mr. Speaker: It is quite possible; the member with a supplementary.

Mr. Dietsch: I agree that we should be expanding the scope of the blue box program to cover areas like apartment buildings and office structures. However, I recall the minister announced last fall that a program was being developed to create a recycling program for our province's schools. I believe this is a very important area in which we should be expanding our recycling efforts. I would like to ask the minister to report on the progress of the school recycling program.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Indeed the Star program, as it is called, Student Action for Recycling, is an exceedingly important program because not only does it address the problems that exist in terms of waste materials that are generated in school facilities, but it also enlists the support of students, who are so enthusiastic in this regard, to promote recycling.

I will in fact be at Grantham High School tomorrow morning, kicking off and helping to celebrate the event of the Star program in one of the 16 pilot projects across Ontario where the students have shown a good deal of enthusiasm. As the member knows, the ministry pays a third of that and Ontario Multi-Material Recycling Inc. pays a third of that, as well as the local board of education. It has been greeted with a significant amount of enthusiasm, and, of course, the full program will be implemented in

the fall of this year across the province in all those communities which have their own curbside program.

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I want to say to members of the House that this kind of effort is going to divert more and more material which would normally go to landfill sites and to incinerators. We believe that by enlisting the students in this program and the kind of efforts they can make at home, we could have a positive effect in saving our resources, diverting landfill and allowing people a personal opportunity to contribute.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. New question. The member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore.

Mrs. Grier: My question is for the Minister of the Environment. I have to say that his last answer is the best example of blatherskite that I have heard in this House. I want to remind the members that this much vaunted recycling program was prompted by the minister's cave-in to the soft drink industry, when he allowed it to put on the market these litter-prone plastic polyethylene terephthalate bottles.

They were allowed on the market on two conditions: first, that by November 1, 1988, 50 per cent of the households would be recycling, and that has happened; second, that by November 1, 1988, 50 per cent of these bottles would be recycled. Can the minister explain to the House why, in view of the fact that in November 1988, 32 per cent were recycled and in December 1988, 27 per cent were recycled, these illegal utensils are on the market, and whether he is going to cave in again and extend the deadline for compliance?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: It will come as a great surprise to the soft drink industry in Ontario that the member would make that particular suggestion, because in response to the very tough regulation that we brought in—the members will remember that when we took office, there was a complete standstill; nobody could make head or tail of what was going to come about. I brought the people around the table. We sat down and we came forward with the regulation, which not everybody liked by any means. But I want to assure people in Ontario and the member opposite that, in fact, Ontario is looked upon as the leading recycling jurisdiction in all of Canada. Well over 1.2 million households are now in the program.

Ontario has put \$7.7 million into this program on a yearly basis at the present time. We have other provinces which will be emulating what we

are doing. I had meetings with the soft drink industry, which not only wants to address that, at my insistence, but also wants to address all plastics that are out there, those which are not even soft drink containers, to bring forward a comprehensive program which will see the recycling of virtually every piece of plastic in Ontario. I suggest that all of Canada will be emulating this.

Mrs. Grier: I want to remind the minister of the strong words he uttered when he announced this program in September 1985. The minister said: "No refillable containers will be permitted unless they can be recycled. Each new nonrefillable container will be required to reach a 50 per cent recycling level within three years"—that was November 1, 1988—"or face fines and, unless corrected, the imposition of a deposit on that type of container."

In view of the failure of the recycling of the plastic polyethylene terephthalate bottles, is the minister now going to introduce a deposit, or is he going to take these illegal bottles off the market?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Again, I must emphasize the fact that I find it highly unusual. I think there may be areas where the member may find some vulnerability over here once in a while, but the area of recycling is really one where he is not going to find that kind of vulnerability.

I want to tell the member that I consult with the Recycling Advisory Committee that I have set up, with a wide variety of people who are represented on that. They recognize that in fact there should be an extension in order that you do not have a situation where you put the deposits on and then they meet it a couple of months later and you take the deposits off again. It becomes extremely confusing for the public to do so.

The committee recognizes the outstanding success, as the member for St. Catharines-Brock (Mr. Dietsch) so aptly put it, of the recycling program in this province. The member will be up in the House, I am sure, when all of these other plastics come on, the first jurisdiction in Canada, one of the first in North America where we have all of these plastics, not just the containers she talks about—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

TRANSPORTATION TO SKYDOME

Mr. Cousens: This question is for the Minister of Transportation. The minister happens to be aware that Mr. Vardin, the commissioner of public works for Toronto, has serious reservations about the network and the infra-

structure being completed around the domed stadium being ready in time for June 3 when the dome opens officially.

I would like to ask the minister if he could answer this question, just very simply and straightforwardly, without any of the emotion and all the other things we get into: What action is he taking to assist the city of Toronto and the Stadium Corp. in resolving these problems that they are having?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I thank my friend for the question. I guess the short answer would be that in two minutes and 50 seconds I am going to go out and talk to the general manager of the Toronto Transit Commission with respect to this very issue.

Our ministry, in co-operation with Metropolitan Toronto and the TTC and the Stadium Corp., has worked long and hard to try to resolve transportation issues all across this province, and certainly throughout this city, as the member will be well aware. He missed an opening this morning, I should point out. The corporation people feel that the June 3 opening will come off in time and with all of the public facilities required to be in place.

Mr. Cousens: Again, what we have to look at is that it is going to be next to impossible for people to get a parking spot around the stadium, because there are just not going to be the roads that take you in and out of the parking spots. The current transit system all around Toronto has not been revised to handle the large numbers of people who will be coming to the stadium. The light rail transit will not be finished until the fall. On GO Transit, which would be an excellent way to bring people in in the evening, especially from the north, the area of the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara) and myself, there has been no change in plans to provide additional GO Transit trains and services there.

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. Cousens: We do not know when the pedestrian access routes will be done.

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. Cousens: We are seeing something that could be a terrible mess around Metro when the dome opens.

Mr. Speaker: For the third time, the question?

Mr. Cousens: What is the minister going to do? What can he do and what will he do to make sure that we do not have all the problems I am pointing to in parking and everything else that

goes on. Can he tell us what he is going to do about it?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I am rather confused to hear the member for Markham, who constantly looks for new initiatives in the transit programs of the province—the extensions of GO, the extensions to TTC and other facilities—now stand up worrying where his parking spot is going to be at the domed stadium. I presume he has already bought his ticket.

I will tell the member for Markham that as recently as 12 o'clock today, I indeed was talking with the chairman of GO Transit. The member should be aware that in fact we have added capacity and are in the process of adding capacity to 12-car trains on the Lakeshore line, which will facilitate the movement of people back and forth into Toronto for the dome and other purposes in a very substantial way.

The member will be aware that we are committed to substantial funding of public transit facilities in Toronto, including the LRT on the Harbourfront and perhaps other initiatives that may come before us, as Metro dealt with certain issues only very recently, and as Metro council proceeds, we will meet with them at every opportunity.

Mr. Speaker: That completes the allotted time for oral questions.

1520

USE OF TIME IN QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. Hampton: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: I have some pretty important questions to ask and I think it is really an abuse of the House and abuse of our privileges that ministers continue to rant on and say nothing.

Mr. Speaker: In response to the member's point, I would be glad to show him the list I have with the times taken for questions and responses at any time.

Mr. Dietsch: Petitions?

Mr. Speaker: I had not called for petitions. Interjections.

TABLING OF PETITIONS

Mr. Speaker: Order. Before I call for petitions, may I inform the members that I have been compiling statistics on petitions in this House. During the first session of this parliament up to today, there have been 914 petitions introduced but only 424 were in order; that means 53.6 per cent were out of order. So may I suggest that members during the recess might read

standing order 31 a few times. You may find this helpful for presentations of petitions.

PETITIONS

PROPOSED BUILDING SITE

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I have a rather unique petition that is jointly made out to the mayor and council of the city of Scarborough and to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas we understand that the Runnymede Development Corp. is now proposing to proceed with the building of apartment towers at Gerrard Street East near Clonmore Drive, adjacent to an abandoned dump site known to contain materials deemed hazardous;

"We insist that a full environmental impact assessment be carried out prior to the excavation and construction of the proposed project."

EXTENDED CARE

Mr. Brandt: I have a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, signed by 87 persons in the riding represented by the member for Chatham-Kent (Mr. Bossy), a government member, which reads in part as follows:

"We believe that all residents of extended care facilities, whether it be a nursing home or a municipal home for the aged, are entitled to equal care and services according to the specific care requirements of each individual.

"Nursing home residents should benefit from the same amount of funding and kinds of services as residents of municipal homes for the aged.

"I urge the Ontario government to reform the extended care system so that it is uniform, fair and equitable, with regard to funding and regulation and so that seniors in all extended care facilities receive the quality of care that they deserve."

I have signed that one, Mr. Speaker, and with your indulgence I have a second petition.

HEALTH CARE FUNDING

Mr. Brandt: This petition is to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, signed by 3,500 persons from the great riding of Sarnia. This is calling for additional resources for Ontario's health care system "to reduce the needless deaths and suffering caused by the government underfunding of Ontario hospitals."

TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION

Mr. Dietsch: "To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"To amend the Teachers' Superannuation Act, 1983, in order that all teachers who have retired prior to May 31, 1982, have their pensions recalculated on the best five years rather than at the present seven to 10 years.

"This proposed amendment would make the five-year criteria applicable to all retired teachers and would eliminate the present inequitable treatment."

I have affixed my name thereto.

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Mr. Neumann: I have a petition from 72 senior citizens living at 33 Memorial Drive in Brantford:

"To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the senior citizens at 33 Memorial Drive, Brantford, express the following thoughts and concerns regarding the proposed automobile insurance rates:

"1. The rates should be based on driving records.

"2. Consideration should be given to a rate category for drivers who do not drive more than 9,000 kilometres per year.

"3. We are concerned about measures that would discriminate against seniors on the basis of age.

"4. Premium increases allowed to insurance companies are excessive and far in excess of the rate of inflation."

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Mr. Kanter: I have a petition addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. The petition begins:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Ontario government to implement fully the recommendations of the Social Assistance Review Committee report of 1988."

This petition is signed by over 200 people, many of them resident in my riding. I am pleased to affix my name to the petition, and I expect that it will be in order.

SMALL CLAIMS COURT

Mr. Sterling: I have a petition to the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Lieutenant Governor in Council as follows:

"To pass a regulation designating the regional municipality of Ottawa-Carleton as an area in which the maximum claim in the provincial court, civil division, be increased from the present \$1,000 to \$3,000 pursuant to the authority granted under section 87(1)(f) and 78(1) of the Courts of Justice Act, 1984."

That has been signed by 48 residents of Ottawa-Carleton, including Ms. Elat Lerner, and I have signed that petition.

EDUCATION FUNDING

Mr. Ballinger: I have in my possession two petitions, the first one signed by 22 residents.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We, as parents of children attending George Street school in York region, believe that extra funding is necessary to meet the needs of the educational system. Without more money, the required number of schools necessary to accommodate the increasing enrolment cannot be built. We therefore petition the government to ensure that there is no loss of provincial support or support from commercial and industrial taxes for education."

PROPOSED CLAY MINING PIT

Mr. Ballinger: The second petition is signed by 168 persons.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"That in view of the fact that the Environmental Assessment Act, RSO 1980, is an important bastion in protecting and preserving our environment, and whereas the municipality of Metropolitan Toronto wishes to expropriate 432 acres of meadow, woodlot and farm land in the heart of the growing community of Maple and convert this site to a clay mining pit and/or quarry, which is likely to cause irreparable harm and damage to the residents and natural environment of Maple, that the House ensure this application by Metropolitan Toronto not be exempted from the requirements of the Environment Assessment Act."

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Mr. Mackenzie: I have a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the Liberal members of the standing committee on resources development have voted to oppose an opposition motion to hear all deputations who want to appear before the committee on Bill 162;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly to instruct the standing committee on resources development to reschedule its public hearings on Bill 162 in order to give all deputations who wish to make presentations about the proposed changes to the workers' compensation system an opportunity to appear before the committee and express their views."

That was signed by 10 citizens in the Barrie-Richmond Hill-Unionville area. I have affixed my name to it. I support the tenet of the petition.

EXTENDED CARE

Mr. Cureatz: I have a petition for the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, signed by 110 persons in the riding represented by the member for Durham Centre (Mr. Furlong), a government member, which reads in part as follows:

"I believe that all residents of extended care facilities, whether it be a nursing home or a municipal home for the aged, are entitled to equal care and services, according to the specific care requirements of each individual.

"Nursing home residents should benefit from the same amount of funding and kinds of services as residents of municipal homes for the aged.

"We urge the Ontario government to reform the extended care system so that it is uniform, fair and equitable with regard to funding and regulation and so that seniors in all extended care facilities receive the quality of care that they deserve."

In connection with that petition, I have a similar petition, of which I will not read the preamble in recognition of the time available on this day. But let me indicate that it is signed by 118 persons in the riding represented by the member for Durham West (Mrs. Stoner), a government member.

1530

In addition to those two petitions, I have a third petition inscribed, as previously indicated, by myself. Let me merely say it is a petition signed by 59 persons in the riding represented by the member for Durham York (Mr. Ballinger), a government member.

Along the same lines, I have another petition. I will not divulge, in terms of some of my anxieties, why I am receiving all of these

petitions from other government sitting members. Let me merely say, so that I do not digress, that it is signed by 180 persons in the riding represented by the member for Northumberland (Mrs. Fawcett), a government member.

Last but not least, I have a petition, as previously indicated by myself, signed by 41 persons in the riding represented by the member for Quinte (Mr. O'Neil).

Mr. Speaker: You have affixed your name to all those?

Mr. Cureatz: No, I did not.

Mr. Speaker: They will be out of order then.

Mr. Cureatz: Well, then I will.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THIRD READINGS

The following bills were given third reading on motion:

Bill 151, An Act to revise the Personal Property Security Act and to repeal and amend certain other Acts related to Personal Property;

Bill 152, An Act to revise and consolidate the Law related to Repairers' and Storers' Liens;

Bill 212, An Act to amend the Legislative Assembly Act;

Bill 213, An Act to amend the Executive Council Act.

COUNTY OF LANARK ACT

Mr. Villeneuve, on behalf of Mr. Wiseman, moved second reading of Bill Pr78, An Act respecting the County of Lanark.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

CONCURRENCE IN SUPPLY

Resolutions for supply for the following ministries and office were concurred in by the House:

- Ministry of Colleges and Universities;
- Ministry of the Environment;
- Office of the Assembly;
- Ministry of Natural Resources;
- Ministry of Tourism and Recreation;
- Ministry of Municipal Affairs;
- Ministry of Skills Development;
- Ministry of Correctional Services;
- Ministry of Labour.

CONCURRENCE IN SUPPLY, MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION

Mr. Cousens: We were proceeding rather quickly through the concurrences, and indeed we

are in a hurry to leave this place, but I think it would be wrong for us to allow this concurrence to proceed without at least some comment. I want to respect the time of the House. Everybody else has other things he wants to do.

I do not think there is anything more important for the people of Metropolitan Toronto and the greater Metro area than the traffic problems we are not only beginning to have, but which are going to become worse. I think we have to come to terms with the need this province has for a quality transportation system. It is going to affect the quality of life, it is going to affect tourism, it is going to affect everything about commerce and life in our cities.

We have a crisis on our hands and it would be wrong for us to allow this concurrence to go through as if everything is just fine with the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Fulton). It is not. The minister had a phone call today to the head of GO Transit. I think that is just fine. He talks about the east-west corridor being improved, with maybe 12 trains in it, but I will tell him there is nothing happening in the north-south corridor.

Why does this ministry not begin to realize that the growth around Metro is not just to the east and the west; it is to the north? It cannot go to the south, because there is a great big piece of water there, as the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere (Mr. Faubert) well knows. The fact is that the people who are moving into York region and into those areas north of Metropolitan Toronto are not getting any kind of service.

1540

We have a GO train system that comes through Richmond Hill, Langstaff and Oriole, and we have three trains in the morning and three at night. We have not seen any change in that service since 1976 when that system was instituted. We have had plenty of surveys, plenty of questionnaires and plenty of promises, but we have not seen any improvement. Now what is happening is that the parking lots are getting filled, but we are not seeing anything done to add to the service.

We have an urgent problem and everybody is just sitting around, complacently allowing it to get worse. I cannot stand just sitting back here and watching the Minister of Transportation with a sense of, "Oh, I am above that; I do not worry about that." I do. I am elected by the people of York region to do something about it. I feel as frustrated as I have ever felt at the failure of this government to at least own up to the responsibility it has to do something about transportation.

We are going to have one horrible mess when the SkyDome opens. For one thing, I was asking the minister today for at least some kind of honourable response to it. If we are going to have people using public transit to get to the dome, we should begin to see some announcements from this ministry that will provide special transit services to the dome during rush periods when the dome is going to be open, so that people will be able to leave their cars at parking lots in Langstaff, Richmond Hill, Oriole, Unionville, Markham or other places on the GO Transit system. Why do we not get some kind of commitment from this minister that goes beyond where he is at right now? I see it as just being one horrible bottleneck.

I like the domed stadium. It is going to be good. I plan to be there on June 3, if it opens on June 3. There seems to be some worry that they are going to have trouble getting everything in place so that it can go on. Part of the problem stems from the failure of this minister to work in a close and realistic way with the people at the Stadium Corp. of Ontario Ltd. and with the city of Toronto.

There has to be an investment in the future. We can come along and give \$25 million or \$35 million towards the dome, but we also have to put something into the roads and networks to get people there. There has to be an investment in the infrastructure. If we are not going to do that, we are failing the people who are going to be using these services.

It is going to be a nightmare. They are hoping to get people to use public transit. That does not begin to solve all the problems. For those of us who live far out of town, we are going to be on the road for so long it is not even going to be worth it.

Where is the Minister of Transportation taking us? I say nowhere. Yesterday, I had some fun. I wrote him a note and I called him the very right honourable Ed Fulton Sheen, bishop of highways of sin. The sin that is surrounding this minister is the failure to own up to the responsibility he has as a minister to serve the people of this province.

It is not fun coming down the Don Valley Parkway every day. It is not fun driving on Highway 7. I know there are millions, let alone thousands of people in this province who are increasingly frustrated at the problems they are having in getting around.

Here we are spending money on a ministry. It is flat-lining its costs. It is not doing more than it has in the past. What is happening is that inflation in road construction is not at three per cent or four

per cent the way it is in everything else; it is at 15 per cent. It may even be higher than that this year. So this year the ministry is going to be spending 15 per cent less than last year on road construction and transit services. The minister cannot call that satisfactory, not when he is bleeding us as much as he is with the sales tax and every other kind of tax.

Mr. Fleet: You're always being bled.

Mr. Cousens: The people of Ontario come along and load up their cars with gasoline. If some of that money went back into roads, they would begin to feel a little bit better about it, but it is not. The government just keeps on taking and taking, and what are we getting back out of it? A bigger civil service; a bigger ministry office.

Mr. Fleet: You're retrogressing.

Mr. Cousens: The minister's office has increased by twice the amount in percentage terms as his budget for municipalities. How can people be so complacent?

Our party is not complacent. We are concerned about the gridlock that is taking place around greater Metropolitan Toronto. We are concerned about the stagnation of the transportation system. We are concerned about the effect that is going to have on tourism in this province. People used to come to Toronto and say, "Isn't it a beautiful city?"

Mr. Fleet: Your colleagues don't agree with you, Don. They have abandoned you. where are your colleagues?

Mr. Cousens: Mr. Speaker, could you put some kind of muzzle on this fellow? I do not think anyone can muzzle the member for High Park-Swansea (Mr. Fleet), but even a paper bag over his head would help.

Mr. Fleet: Thank you very much.

Mr. Cousens: I cannot accept in any way what is going on within this government as to what it is doing for the people of Ontario in coming to terms with transportation. They have not come to terms with it as a government. We are the ones who are suffering. I do not know what promises they have ever made, but they are probably like the rest of their election promises. They are going to be broken, like the others.

Come on. Get on the ball. Maybe what they are going to have to do is have the Premier (Mr. Peterson), when he gets back from his Hollywood trip, shake up the whole government. But I do not know who they are going to move into Transportation who can do a job of it, unless there is a commitment from the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon), from Management Board and from

the whole government that they are going to do something for it. Right now the losers are the people who want to come to this city.

Mr. Fleet: If this is a leadership speech, it's not quite good enough.

Mr. Cousens: I started saying before I was interrupted by the member for High Park-Swansea whose voice is louder than mine, especially in my left ear, that if tourism is going to continue to be a very strong industry, as it should be for Ontario—

Mr. Fleet: Well supported by Ontario.

Mr. Cousens: —and if we want to continue to attract people to this city and to the province, we also have to have the networks in place so that they can come into this city and come in and use the services. This government is failing to live up to any sense of purpose on that, and it just has to.

This is one government that is failing the city of Toronto and Metropolitan Toronto, which has passed a motion asking for something to be done about subway construction. Where is there a subway under construction in this city right now? There is not. There is not a city in the world this large that is not doing something about subway construction.

Interjections.

Mr. Cousens: I wish the government members would either listen or do something else. I am not just—

Mr. Fleet: We have to listen. That is the problem.

Mr. Cousens: You can't listen and talk at the same time.

The subway is an urgent priority. Why does this government not get on with it? The city and Metro are looking for something to be done on the Sheppard subway line. I just sincerely hope that this government will do something about it.

I do not know where we begin or where we end on this issue. This government wants to get approval for its concurrences. They want to get approval to go ahead. Personally, I would give approval if they were going to do something that was constructive and build the infrastructure and get the people moving in and around greater Metro. Then we would have something to be proud of.

Until this government does it, we are going to have a problem that will get worse and worse. At what point do you begin to do something about it? When it is too late? Right now, they are pothole fixers. About all they are good at is filling holes. Maybe they can stuff a few of these noisy backbenchers in the holes. It would suit a

better purpose than some of the things they are doing around here.

We need to get on with the problems of roads and traffic and people who want to move around this province. They cannot right now. I blame not just the Minister of Transportation. He happens to be a good guy, but he is doing a terrible job at convincing that bored front bench to do something about it.

I say it is time they acted. It is still not too late. They have a couple of years left in their term, unless they call a snap election after today. I really wish they would because then we will do something about it. Then we will start seeing something happen in this province. We will not see the broken promises and we will not see the failures we have had with them.

Mr. Furlong: What taxes will go up? What taxes will go up?

Mr. Cousens: I am being asked a number of questions. I will be pleased to answer them now. I am being asked a question by the member for Durham Centre. What question is the member for Durham Centre asking?

Mr. Furlong: What taxes will go up to pay for this?

Mr. Cousens: The member has asked what taxes will go up. I think we will be able to save taxes and then we will go towards a balanced budget. The member is concerned about taxes going up. I think it is time this province began to put a halt on tax and the inflation they are putting on taxes.

They went from seven per cent to eight per cent on provincial sales tax last year. It was the biggest tax grab ever in the history of the province. They could not even balance the budget. We would begin to balance the budget. We would begin to stop spending money on an increased civil service, which has increased by about 8,000. We would begin to do something to serve the needs of people in this province. We would not make the kind of promises they did.

Now does the member have any other questions? The member for Durham Centre is so full of ideas.

Mr. Furlong: I think you are dreaming in broad daylight.

Mr. Cousens: He thinks I am dreaming in broad daylight. I have to say we are dealing with concurrences. I am not happy with this government. Maybe you can tell, Mr. Speaker. I will vote against the concurrence for Transportation. I think it is time they shaped up or shipped out.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. M. C. Ray): Is there any other discussion? Mr. Conway, in the absence of the minister, has moved concurrence in supply for the Ministry of Transportation. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Resolution concurred in.

1550

CONCURRENCE IN SUPPLY

Resolution for supply for the following ministry was concurred in by the House:

Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

CONCURRENCE IN SUPPLY, OFFICE RESPONSIBLE FOR NATIVE AFFAIRS

Mr. Reville: Just briefly, Mr. Speaker, you will know that I am not the critic for native affairs for the New Democratic Party, but in the absence of most of the government, when we have had the government House leader moving all these concurrences, it seems appropriate that I make a remark or two in this respect in the absence of our critic.

Until recently, I did not have very much knowledge about what life was like for native Canadians in this province. My experience has been largely to do with urban native Canadians, representing, as I have for some years, a downtown Toronto riding in which many native Canadians live—and live in a very seriously deprived condition, I should point out.

Just recently I had an opportunity, with my colleagues from northern Ontario, to visit in the northwest and to speak with a number of the chiefs who represent first Canadians in that part of Ontario. I cannot let this occasion pass without sharing with the Legislature how devastating I found it to hear the chiefs talk about the plight of their people.

I am ashamed at the conditions under which our first Canadians are living in this province, and I urge the government to do a much better job.

Resolution concurred in.

INTERIM SUPPLY

Hon. Mr. Conway, on behalf of Hon. R. F. Nixon, moved resolution 22:

That the Treasurer of Ontario be authorized to pay the salaries of the civil servants and other

necessary payments pending the voting of supply for the period commencing April 1, 1989, and ending May 31, 1989, such payments to be charged to the proper appropriation following the voting of supply.

Hon. Mr. Conway: As the honourable members know, this is the interim supply motion that is required to provide the funding to discharge the ongoing responsibilities of government during that time when the Legislature will largely be in recess.

I am delighted that my distinguished friend the member for Brant-Haldimand, the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon), has just returned from Ottawa. He might certainly want to speak to the motion standing in his name, which I am so happy to move in his absence.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It seems such a shame to have the Treasurer arrive a little winded and not have a chance to speak to this.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I'm always a little windy.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: No, I am windy; he is winded. I just thought I would give him a chance to catch his breath and then say whatever it is that is on his mind.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I have nothing to say, for reasons that he will probably bring to public attention.

I appreciate the fact that the House is considering interim supply for the period following the end of this fiscal year. We are hoping that before the House adjourns today the supply bill covering the expenditures for this year will be passed and we will be able to proffer it in the usual and appropriate way to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor. That really means that, after our careful consideration, the expenditures of \$38 billion will be approved. The fact that most of the money has been spent already is neither here nor there.

Motion agreed to.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Hon. Mr. Conway moved resolution 23:

That the select committee on education, appointed on February 11, 1988, be continued, the committee to report to the House within one calendar year.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Very briefly, I want to say in the presence of the member for Middlesex (Mr. Reycraft), the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston) and others who may have served on this committee that we know of the good work they have done. Their mandate is

being extended by virtue of this motion. I know my friend the member for Scarborough West and my friends from other electoral districts are very anxious to continue the important work of this particular select committee and this motion really is simply to extend in time the mandate of that particular select committee.

Motion agreed to.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Hon. Mr. Conway moved resolution 24:

That the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly be authorized to undertake a comprehensive review of the report of the chief election officer including recommended legislative changes 1988 (sessional paper 325) and other areas related to the election process and report to the House its observations and recommendations thereon following public meetings for the hearing of representations of interested persons, and that the chief election officer provide such assistance to the committee as may be required by the committee to discharge its duties.

Hon. Mr. Conway: The said committee is anxious to get on with this particular examination of the report of the elections office, and I believe the whips have already allocated some time to this undertaking in the intersession which will begin very shortly. Again, I hope all members would support this resolution to let that very learned group of men and women get on with that important task.

Motion agreed to.

ESTIMATES AND SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES

Hon. Mr. Conway moved resolution 21:

That the 1988-89 estimates and supplementary estimates which have not yet been passed by the committees and reported to the House be deemed to be passed and reported to the House, and that the 1988-89 estimates and supplementary estimates which have not yet been concurred in be deemed to be concurred in.

Hon. Mr. Conway: This is the so-called deeming motion.

Motion agreed to.

[See Votes and Proceedings]

STATUS OF BUSINESS

Hon. Mr. Conway moved resolution 25:

That, notwithstanding the prorogation of the House,

(i) all government bills ordered for second reading except Bill 27, An Act respecting Prearranged and Prepaid Funerals, Bill 28, An Act to amend the Funeral Services Act, and Bill 168, An Act to amend the Power Corporation Act;

(ii) all government and private members' public bills referred to standing committees;

(iii) Bill Pr15, An Act respecting the City of Toronto, referred to the standing committee on regulations and private bills;

(iv) the 16th report 1988 of the standing committee on the Ombudsman, the first report of the select committee on education, the report of the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly on the process for the restoration of the parliament building, the 17th report 1989 of the standing committee on the Ombudsman, the report of the select committee on energy on Ontario Hydro's draft/demand planning strategy, and the 1987 and 1988 report of the standing committee on public accounts; and

(v) all matters referred to standing committees,

remaining on the Orders and Notices paper at the prorogation of the first session of this parliament be continued and placed on the Orders and Notices paper on the second sessional day of the second session of the 34th Parliament at the same stage of business for the House and its committees as at prorogation.

Hon. Mr. Conway: This is the carryover motion about which there has been a good discussion among House leaders and whips. In putting the motion, I want to put a motion to amend this particular motion.

Hon. Mr. Conway further moved that resolution 25 be amended by striking out in part (iv) "the report of the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly on the process for the restoration of the parliament building."

Hon. Mr. Conway: The reason for that amendment is very simply that this morning we had a very good debate and the report of the committee in this respect was debated and adopted. It simply drops off because we have completed that work. Otherwise, as I said, we have had a good discussion and the House leaders and whips have agreed to carry over the following items, notwithstanding prorogation later today.

Motion agreed to.

Motion, as amended, agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Conway: We are moving with very considerable dispatch here, and I am very pleased.

1600

COMMITTEE SITTINGS

Hon. Mr. Conway moved resolution 26:

That the following committees be continued and authorized to meet during the recess between the first and the second sessions of the 34th Parliament, in accordance with the schedule of meeting dates agreed to by the three party whips and tabled with the Clerk of the Assembly, to examine and inquire into the following matters:

Select committee on education to consider the organization and length of the schoolday and the school year;

Standing committee on administration of justice to consider Bill 187, An Act to amend certain Acts as they relate to Police and Sheriffs, and Bill 4, An Act to amend the Metropolitan Toronto Police Force Complaints Act, 1984;

Standing committee on finance and economic affairs to consider prebudget consultations;

Standing committee on general government to consider Bill 170, An Act to revise several Acts related to Aggregate Resources;

Standing committee on government agencies to consider the operation of agencies, boards and commissions of the government of Ontario;

Standing committee on the Legislative Assembly to consider matters related to election laws and the election process and the procedures, administration and services and facilities of the House;

Standing committee on the Ombudsman to consider the special report of the Ombudsman on the denied case of Farm Q;

Standing committee on public accounts to consider the 1987 and 1988 annual reports of the Provincial Auditor;

Standing committee on resources development to consider Bill 162, An Act to amend the Workers' Compensation Act;

Standing committee on social development to consider Bill 124, An Act to amend the Children's Law Reform Act, and Bill 194, An Act to restrict Smoking in Workplaces.

Hon. Mr. Conway: This particular motion sets out the important work that standing and select committees of the Legislature are expected to undertake in the intersession period. It ranges from the important work of the select committee on education, now extended in mandate in so far as time to report is concerned by one year, down through the very important work of the standing committee on social development with respect to the bills having been referred to it.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I want to speak to this because it has been a matter of some controversy these last few days in terms of the mandate of the select committee, not in terms of time but in terms of substance. I want to just apprise the House of some changes which have been taking place this afternoon around the select committee.

Some people may know that I withdrew, and our caucus withdrew, from the participation in the select committee for some reasons of problems with communication, I think one can say, between ourselves and the minister, trying to make sure that the committee was not in a position of doing things which the ministry was already active in and then making announcements on and finding ourselves in awkward positions about when we held our hearings, etc.

It looked as if we would, as a result, not be sitting with the rest of the members of the committee, now restructured for this period in the spring to deal with the matters of the length of the schoolday because of a misunderstanding around the major question of the financing of education, which is of concern to most of the people out there in education these days.

Of course, most members will know that in 1985 we had the report of the Macdonald commission proposing a number of major changes in how we finance the education system. It had been my understanding that the government was going to move on this last June and that in fact we would have had an announcement last spring around financing. That did not come.

Then as the committee began its hearings last summer and fall, we had one or two occasions when the minister's path and ours crossed, making opposition members like myself feel uncomfortable about our role, and we tried to set up a communication between the minister and ourselves about what would be forthcoming last fall.

It was my impression that before we were to meet this spring, there was going to be a major announcement, a response to the Macdonald commission, by the minister. That would have been something which would have made it awkward for us to hold meetings on financing this spring. Therefore, subsequent to our hearings last September, we decided to meet on the length of the schoolday and school year during the break this spring.

It turns out, of course, that in fact there has not been that kind of statement by the ministry up to this point. In conversation with the minister today and subsequently with other members of the committee from all parties, the minister

stated his intention to deal with financing matters in a substantive way during the next session, this spring some time, and that he thought perhaps there might not be enough room again for the committee to find its own role around matters to do with financing this spring.

This is the third commitment I have received that this will be taking place. From my perspective as an opposition member, I much prefer the committee to say that at this stage it is going to place financing on its agenda and put that before itself, with the understanding that the minister may very well make some major pronouncement this May or June on, for instance, one of the major issues such as pooling of commercial, residential and industrial assessments and how that would affect the funding for the two major public systems in Ontario.

But even if he were to do that, it would seem to me that the committee would have much room for operation. I am being hypothetical here, of course, but it could be dealing with responses from the public to that kind of initiative and in a place where, from an opposition perspective, discontent could be fomented; it could be a time when the committee could get some of that response from the public and then give it to the minister, who could then refine his policies, or it may be quite different from that. We may say that although the minister has moved in this area on financing, there is this other whole series of questions that need to be addressed and that we would deal with those things.

It is for that reason—and I am speaking slightly out of order here, but I will not speak again and therefore that is a blessing for all concerned—that I will be supporting a motion which will be coming from the third party's House leader, which will indicate that the motion that we are now talking about should be amended to add "the matter of financing" at the end of the phrase "and the length of the schoolday and school year" in whatever words he chooses to make his motion.

It is my understanding that it is something which the members from all three parties on the committee have now agreed to, from their own varying perspectives on the matter. I hope it is something that the House will support.

It is understood, however, because of the schedule which we have already established on the length of the school year for the period in March and April of this year, that we will not be doing much more than setting up an organizational framework for how we would proceed on the question of financing at our next hearings—hopefully, in the summer or September—

whenever the House leaders deem that we should meet.

Mr. Harris: I appreciate the comments by the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston) and the efforts he has taken, along with the member for Burlington South (Mr. Jackson), to try to bring some focus back into the select committee on education.

The House will recall the fairly dramatic gesture by both the member for Scarborough West and the member for Burlington South, indicating that they felt that the committee was not co-ordinating as well with the Ministry of Education. Indeed, on an understanding of what they could study and what they could not study, there seemed to be some sense that there were more significant issues that the committee could be studying.

However, the committee accepted in pretty good faith, I think—in consultation with the minister—that it did not want to be studying something that was already going to be dealt with by the government or that was to be resolved shortly by the government; so that, in that sense, may be wasting some of its time. It undertook, I think in good faith, to head off into a few different directions.

I think the member for Scarborough West's questions in this House over the past couple of days and the various releases from the member for Burlington South, the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (Mr. Villeneuve) and the member for Scarborough West have indicated the difficulties.

I am pleased to congratulate all members who have brought some focus to this problem. It was a problem that was brought to my attention as House leader for my party and to the attention of the House leader for the New Democratic Party. While it will not solve the problem for this break—and I appreciate that there has been some sense of all-party agreement—the committee will proceed with the hearings that have been proposed, as in the motion.

There is also some sense of direction with the concurrence from the ministry and all members of the committee that indeed there is value, and it will not be in conflict with what the minister is doing. In fact, he is moving much more slowly than he may have anticipated when he gave his earlier direction to the committee.

Hon. Mr. Conway: That's true.

Mr. Harris: Now, listen. We were working very co-operatively here.

I would move an amendment to the motion of the government House leader by adding to the

section which reads "select committee on education to consider the organization and length of the school day and the school year," to the end of that, the words "and the financing of Ontario's education."

1610

The Acting Speaker (Mr. M. C. Ray): Does the member have the amendment in writing? Could you please present it to the table officers?

Hon. Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, it might make it easier to dispense.

The Acting Speaker: I would still like to make sure I have it correct.

Mr. Harris moves that resolution 26 be amended by adding, after the phrase "select committee on education to consider the organization and length of the school day and the school year," the following: "and the financing of Ontario's education."

Ms. Poole: I will be very brief because I know there is some urgency to the House completing its business this afternoon—

Interjections.

Ms. Poole: In that case, since the opposition is clamouring for a very lengthy speech, I will be pleased to extend it to six o'clock today and then, of course, again on Monday. I understand we have unanimous consent for that?

I just wanted to express my appreciation, not only to the opposition members, but to the government members today, who worked very co-operatively to try to find a resolution to this. I am personally delighted that the opposition will be back with us when we start our hearing next week on the length and organization of the school day and the school year. In the whole spirit of co-operation, which has been a part of this committee to date, we will be looking forward to working together on the issue of financing, as we have on the other mandates of the select committee on education.

Motion, as amended, agreed to.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Hon. Mr. Conway moved resolution 27:

That standing and select committees be authorized to release their reports during the recess between the first and second sessions of this parliament by depositing a copy of any report with the Clerk of the Assembly, and, on the second sessional day of the second session of the 34th Parliament the chairmen of such committees shall bring any such reports before the House in accordance with the standing orders.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Very briefly, this is a routine motion again, simply allowing standing and select committees to release their reports during the recess period.

Motion agreed to.

COMMITTEE SITTINGS

Hon. Mr. Conway moved resolution 28:

That, with the agreement of the House leaders and whips of each party, committees may meet during the recess between the first and second sessions of this parliament at times other than those specified on the schedule tabled with the Clerk of the Assembly.

Motion agreed to.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Hon. Mr. Conway moved resolution 29:

That the current membership on the standing committees be continued during the recess between the first and second sessions of the 34th Parliament.

Hon. Mr. Conway: This is very routine again, that the current membership on the standing committees be continued during the recess period.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Conway moved resolution 30:

That the membership on the select committee on education shall be: Ms. Poole (chair), Mr. Beer, Mr. D. S. Cooke (Windsor-Riverside), Mr. Furlong, Mr. Jackson, Mr. R. F. Johnston (Scarborough West), Mr. Keyes, Mr. Mahoney, Mr. Michash, Mrs. O'Neill (Ottawa-Rideau) and Mr. Villeneuve.

Hon. Mr. Conway: This is a resolution that amends slightly the membership of the select committee on education. I just observe, for the particular attention of the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. D. S. Cooke), that the chief government whip seems to be absenting himself from this committee, and in his stead will be the member for York North (Mr. Beer). I believe that is the only substitution. At any rate, this is the revised membership for the select committee on education.

Motion agreed to.

BUDGET DEBATE

(continued)

EXPOSÉ BUDGÉTAIRE

(suite)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion that this

House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

Mr. Brandt: Once again, I am pleased to have the opportunity to make some comments for the record in connection with the tax increases that were imposed on the people of Ontario by this government. After having studied these increases very carefully, having reviewed them in our caucus on a number of occasions, our party continues to feel as strongly about the tax increases as we did the very first day that they were announced by the government.

It is interesting to note—and I would have to say that this is somewhat cynical—in connection with the way in which the government has developed its agenda on this particular item, that there were no tax increases in the last budget before the last election. The government found a way to hold the line. I do not want to be cynical in a political sense and suggest that that was only a move with which to go to the people and show them what great restraint the government was showing at that particular time, but the fact of the matter is that there were no tax increases at that time.

Interestingly enough, during the course of that particular election campaign in 1987, I do not recall one comment or any suggestion that there would be massive tax hikes taking place if we gave the Liberals a majority in the election of September 10, 1987. I want members to know that the federal government, under the current Prime Minister, brought in a very comprehensive program that will reduce taxes, many of which are going to be offset by the tax increases that are going to be put in place by the current provincial government.

As those of us on this side of the House are only too well aware, once this very large majority Liberal government was in place it was deemed necessary, in order to pay for the promises of the 1987 election campaign, I suppose, to have a very substantial tax increase. We feel that there were many other areas of reduction and government restraint that could have been introduced during the course of the past year or more that would have, in fact, reduced the necessity—perhaps not eliminating it completely—of these massive tax hikes that I want to talk about during the course of today's lengthy debate on this particular matter.

I know that some members of the House are anxious to close this debate as quickly as possible because they want to get on their way to vacations and other things, but I want to say that I am prepared to stay here as long as is necessary in

order to put on the record our objection to the massive, uncalled-for tax increases that this government put in place. It starts with the retail sales tax.

If I can get the attention of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Wrye), I want to say to him, and to the ministry that he so proudly heads, that this retail sales tax is one that the current Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon), when in opposition, talked about as being a regressive tax. He said, "You know, my friends," and he made an impassioned plea during the course of the debates in this House, when he shared with us his views with respect to the meaning and the interpretation of regressivity. What he said at that time was, "You know, the unfairness of a hike in the sales tax, or even of any form of sales tax whatever, is that it hits all people equally, whether they be in the upper-income bracket, the middle- or lower-income brackets."

The fact of the matter is that when you touch people in their pocketbooks with a sales tax, there is no distinction made, as the Treasurer, who is now walking in to take his seat, fully knows. There is no distinction made between the various types of taxpayers. About a decade and a half ago, the Treasurer, the member for Brant-Haldimand, quite appropriately said that a sales tax increase from, I believe, five to seven per cent was in fact a very ill-thought-out move in the sense that it would be unfair, particularly to those at the lower end of the income spectrum.

1620

Mr. Furlong: Did you agree?

Mr. Brandt: I agreed with the member for Brant-Haldimand. If I had been here in this House at that particular time, I would have fought that tax increase. I tell members I would have been on the side of the—the fact of the matter is that the increases with respect to sales taxes brought in by this Treasurer not only touched every taxpayer in the pocket, but in particular touched the taxpayers at the low end of the income spectrum hardest. Those are the ones who are going to feel the impact of these tax increases most directly.

Let us put it into perspective, so we know the numbers as clearly as they should be shared with this House, what a one per cent increase in the sales tax really amounts to, because a lot of people think that when you raise the sales tax from seven per cent to eight per cent that is only one per cent. The fact of the matter is that it is far more than that.

Do members realize that when we take a look at the base funding and the increase in revenues this generates to the Treasurer and the government of Ontario, this one per cent sales tax increase actually means about a 14 per cent increase in total revenues? It amounts to close to \$1 billion, just as a result of the tinkering of a one per cent increase.

I have to tell members that not only was that tax tampered with and increased after a long number of years of leaving the sales tax alone, so that Ontario would continue to be a competitive province in every respect, but the Treasurer was not done with that particular increase. He had to find more areas of increase to adjust.

So the next thing he tampered with was the personal income tax. Personal income tax in this province, once being one of the lowest in the entire country, is now quickly moving into the upper echelons in comparison with the other nine provinces. We started off at 48 per cent personal income tax and then we shifted to 49 per cent and then to 50 per cent. It will go up to 51 per cent and ultimately to 52 per cent. Over a four-year period, each and every year the Treasurer has increased personal income taxes by an additional one per cent. That kind of manoeuvre on the part of this Treasurer is just unacceptable to our party.

He did not stop there. He continued on going. I do not know how the members of the government, and particularly the backbenchers, can go back to their constituencies and say they are doing an effective job of governing when governing amounts to little more than introducing new programs, grabbing more tax dollars and trying to throw money against the problems of Ontario to try to make this government look good. It will not work, because there were 150,000 or more people who signed petitions saying very simply, "Bob Nixon, the people of Ontario will not forget that you went too far."

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Whatever happened to Garth Turner?

Mr. Brandt: As a matter of fact, the individual the Treasurer refers to is now an honourable member in the federal Parliament. After leading a fight against increased taxes at the provincial level, the people thought so highly of Mr. Turner that they overwhelmingly endorsed his candidacy and elected him to the federal House.

I have to tell members that when the Treasurer of this province taxes virtually every single thing that is available to him—

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Not virtually.

Mr. Brandt: "Not virtually," he says. I correct myself. He taxed everything that he possibly could in order to raise more revenue. It questions, in our mind, the ability of this government to manage the affairs of this province and to administer them in such a way as to effectively carry out program delivery in Ontario.

They have a philosophy across the way: if it moves, tax it; if it keeps on moving, continue to tax it; and if it stops moving, subsidize it. That is the approach they have used to taxation policy in Ontario.

Here is a government that started off, on a per capita basis, with a spending record when it took office back in 1985 that was the lowest per capita expenditure of any province in the entire country, because there was in fact a strong management team in place at that time. Admittedly, we had gone through a very difficult period. There was a world recession, revenues were not as strong as they are today, but the per capita spending levels were in fact under control.

The Treasurer has managed, over the years that he has been in that particular position, to start moving Ontario up rather rapidly, and with some degree of hope, I guess, that the other provinces would not notice this. The Premier (Mr. Peterson) recently indicated that the spending levels of Ontario are only eighth per capita of all provinces. What he failed to say is that before he took office they were ninth and they were 10th because those spending experiences in years prior to that were in fact under control.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: That's why you guys were defeated. You were throttling the province. Nobody had a chance.

Mr. Brandt: I have to take issue with the Treasurer when he talks about throttling the province. People like to believe that their tax dollars are being spent in a responsible fashion, and the Treasurer and his government will have great difficulty in going back to the people of this province and proving that case in another couple of years from now, let me assure them. The time will come when they will have to answer for the fact that they have raised taxes, in four short years, by close to 50 per cent. It is totally unconscionable that in a four-year period they would escalate taxes at that kind of rate of increase. It is just not acceptable to the members of my party; I do not believe it is acceptable to the people of Ontario.

In addition to that, let me say to the Treasurer and to the members opposite that at the same time as they are spending more money, they have been

shifting responsibilities to the local levels of government. They have been shifting responsibilities to the municipalities, and let me give them a couple of examples.

We have a bill coming forward now, being proposed by the Attorney General (Mr. Scott), Bill 187 on courtroom security, where the Attorney General said to me in casual conversation in this House—not reported in Hansard, but he in fact did say it across the floor—that this is not going to increase costs to local municipalities.

It is interesting that all the municipalities across the province, along with all the police chiefs and the police commissions, take very strong exception to what the government is proposing in Bill 187, because it now calls for local governments to pay for the cost of security in the court system, a responsibility which was very clearly that of the provincial government up until the time that the Attorney General got an opportunity to make this shift he is now proposing.

It is going to cost something in the order of \$14 million in Metropolitan Toronto alone. In some of the medium-sized communities of 50,000 and 60,000 population in our province, it will cost \$500,000 or more to each and every one of them, simply because another responsibility has been shifted.

Is that the only one? I wish it was, but it is not. What did it do with unconditional grants, this government with this huge new pot of money, something in the order of \$14 billion or \$15 billion of new revenues and new taxes that it has taken on in the past four years? What have they done with that? Have they provided that money to the municipalities? No.

What they did with the municipalities was that they took the unconditional grants sector and they flat-lined that—zero increase—while they are giving themselves virtually a double-digit increase in many of the ministry departments. As the Treasurer well knows, it is far more than that, but the government as a whole has increased revenues in the range of some 10 per cent while the municipalities are supposed to be able to get by on virtually no increase in revenue base from the standpoint of transfer grants from the provincial government. It just is not fair.

What the municipal governments are going to have to do is raise property taxes, which are also very regressive. They are not progressive taxes like income taxes. They are not progressive taxes like corporate taxes. They are in fact very regressive in that again a property owner is not

one who necessarily, because he lives in a large home, has a substantial or a large amount of income.

1630

We consider the sales taxes and property taxes to be in very much the same category. We also consider that this shift of taxes on to the backs of local property taxpayers is just another way of making housing in this province more unaffordable. When you buy a house, obviously you are going to have to pay taxes. What has the government done with respect to one of the most important issues that we are going to have to face not in the days and in the months ahead but in the years ahead, based on the speed with which this government is dealing with this issue? That is the whole question of adequate, affordable housing in Ontario.

With every move that the Treasurer is making he places the price of a house outside the reach of the average Ontario citizen. He has done that in a very insidious way. The increase of one per cent in the sales tax, as an example, is assessed against virtually everything that goes into that house. We have estimated that the cost of that particular move alone, for the average home in the Metropolitan Toronto area, is somewhere in the range of \$3,000 when one takes into account the addition of asphalt and concrete. The one per cent sales tax increase will add \$3,000 to the price of a home.

Did the Treasurer stop there? No. He had a brand-new scheme that will ultimately, if it is allowed to go through, and I hope that it is not—

Hon. R. F. Nixon: You are not going to be against that too?

Mr. Brandt: I am going to be against that too, because once again the Treasurer wants to shift the tax burden to the local municipalities by suggesting to them that the only way in which they are going to be able to get this additional money that traditionally has been a provincial responsibility is if they now introduce a new thing called a lot levy or an impost fee, if you want to use that terminology, because it is a very similar move.

We are now talking about adding to the price of a home perhaps as little as \$5,000, and that is a substantial amount of money. It is enough to break the back of a first-time home buyer in many jurisdictions, but it could go to \$8,000 or \$10,000, as the members of my party are well aware, depending on the determinations that are made locally. Now we have a brand-new tax. Instead of trying to show some restraint and control and trying to show some leadership, as

suggested to the Treasurer by the boys from Earl's Shell Service station in that great community of St. George, who I know are badly burdened by these kinds of tax increases—and I think I will send them this Hansard so they know exactly what he has done to them—

Hon. R. F. Nixon: They will know just what to do with it.

Mr. Brandt: They will. They will pin it on the board and put it in a frame, and they will show it to the member every time he gases up. I know he is full of gas frequently. I say that to him with respect.

The possibility of a \$10,000 lot levy is an absolutely horrendous consideration that is still another new tax that this Treasurer is talking about heaping upon everything else that he has already done. He has made a whole series of mistakes. I guess he can just add one mistake on top of another. This other mistake that he is now about to consider is the lot levy or the impost fee, which is now going to move the cost of a house just that much more beyond the reach of the average Ontario citizen.

When more and more pressure falls on the shoulders of the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek), and when that minister is unable to cope with the demand for what we consider to be affordable housing by whatever criteria one might place on it—some use a figure of 30 per cent disposable income as a reasonable yardstick for what is affordable in terms of housing—I can tell the government that what it is doing to people in a very methodical, step-by-step basis is moving this province away from private ownership of homes into a dependency category where they will have no other choice whatever but to lean on government to provide them with some form of reasonable and adequate housing. It is doing that through these insidious tax increases.

We sit here as members of the provincial parliament, relatively well paid and relatively secure—at least some of the members will be for a couple of years yet. We have a reasonable pension plan, but we sometimes forget about the average Ontario citizen, who is unable to vote for his own pay increases, who does not have a salary level that is comparable to ours and who is trying to cope on a day-to-day basis with the problems of paying his bills, paying his mortgage, educating a family and doing that in the context of these kinds of tax increases.

I have to tell members, and I say this very sincerely, I would not feel as strongly and as bitterly about these tax increases as I do if they were modest and reasonably in line with infla-

tionary increases. I have sat on the other side. I know the demands of government in fulfilling the program requests that come before ministers on a daily basis. I understand that full well. But I also understand that when a government is increasing its outflow of money in terms of expenditures at double the rate of inflation, that is a government in trouble, that is a government which is not responsible and that is a government which has to pay a political price for what it has done.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Boy, are you ever off the beam.

Mr. Brandt: Am I off the beam in suggesting that governments contain themselves to increasing their expenditures at a rate comparable to inflation? If the Treasurer can justify expenditures at double the rate of inflation, then let him go to the people with that in the next while; I will be interested in hearing that case made.

The Treasurer wants me to submit to him certain tests of credibility with respect to tax increases. Let me tell him another test. I happened to spend some time reading some government reports while I was getting a slight degree of relaxation away from this place about a week ago. I took the time, in anticipation of this debate, to see what other provinces were doing.

I was hard pressed to see one other province that even came close to the Treasurer in terms of increased expenditures. There is just no other province that is increasing the size of the bureaucracy, that is increasing the size of government expenditures and that is increasing taxation levels at the rate of increase he is subjecting the people of this province to. I say that is wrong because it is leading us into a position where more and more people are simply going to have to pay higher and higher taxes.

In preparation for this debate, I was looking at the government's interest in restraint when they were in opposition. I remember some of the speeches, and the House leader will remember full well the leader of his party talking about the needless expenditures—

Hon. Mr. Conway: Mr. Nixon?

Mr. Brandt: No, no, the present leader of his party, not the former leader of his party.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I keep forgetting I've been here longer than you.

Mr. Brandt: The member has been here for a very, very long period of time, and during the course of that he has been a party to some of the speeches that are not altogether dissimilar to the one which I am delivering today.

I want to say that in one particular speech I took note of the fact that the now leader of the Liberal Party and Premier (Mr. Peterson) took strong exception to the fact that the government of the day was engaged in what he referred to as "needless advertising."

1640

I again today raised for the Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Mr. Elston) the question of needless advertising on the part of this government. Why did he not take some action in that regard? Why did he not move on it if he thought it to be a matter of significance and a matter of some interest when he was in opposition? That is what I call cynical when it comes to the political process, when he says one thing in opposition and still another when he becomes part of the government.

The fact of the matter is that advertising is increasing at a rapid rate under this government. The government has been advised by the Provincial Auditor that there is advertising that is being approved by the various ministries which is not in fact essential.

I brought to the minister's attention today advertising in both of our official languages where French advertising was being placed in English-language newspapers. Our party has no difficulty whatever with placing French-language ads in French-language daily or weekly newspapers. We think that is an appropriate expenditure of government money. That is not what we are talking about.

In fact, it is interesting, when the minister does not know the answer to the question, that he attempts to discredit the individual who is raising the question. What happened was that the Chairman of Management Board said that I was suggesting we should not be communicating with our francophone population and we should not be spending money on that particular area of activity.

That was not what I suggested in my question at all. I was simply saying that if he is not concerned about some of these relatively small expenditures, such as \$2,000, \$3,000, \$4,000 and \$5,000 for some of these ads, they add up in a short period of time to millions upon millions of dollars of unnecessary expenditures that we feel are inappropriate.

The ad I was talking about today was placed in the Toronto Star on February 17. The ad was, in fact, in both official languages. There is a policy on the part of that government, introduced partially as a result of questions I raised previously, that says very simply that if the

government is going to advertise in an English-language newspaper, it should do it in the English language and insert a line in French indicating that any of our francophone friends who want additional information can call a particular number or write a department where they can get that information, and the normal amount of advertising will still be shared with French-language newspapers across the province.

I have no problem with that. But why duplicate ads in a vehicle which is an English-language newspaper and where the vast majority of readers are not exposed to the French language to the point where they can understand or appreciate the particular ad in question?

It is not only that form of advertising. There has been a whole raft of advertising going on with this government through the course of its last four years, and it is adding up to a very substantial and unreasonable amount of money.

I want to go back to the other tax increases just for a moment. They concern me in a very deep way primarily because I know the people who have to pay for these taxes are the people who can least afford them. When we looked at ways in which we could bring about some reforms in social services in this province, it was very clearly pointed out in the Thomson report that we could not take the easy way out and pay for these improvements to any revisions that we might make in social services simply by raising taxes, because every time we did that, it was like the dog chasing his tail. We just moved more and more people into a category of poverty in this province. In fact, if we provide people with more money and then we tax all that money away, if we put it in one pocket and remove it from the other, we are accomplishing absolutely nothing. That is what was pointed out in that particular report.

We are in favour of revisions to the social welfare system of Ontario which will provide more help to those who are truly in need. But we feel very strongly that it cannot be accomplished simply by extricating more dollars directly from the taxpayer. It has got to be accomplished by something known as restraint in government spending. It has got to be accomplished by something that I referred to as good management and good administration; by that I do not mean what is going on in the Ministry of Health today, which is not good management, good planning and good administration.

These kinds of things have got to be brought about as a result of a government which is

compassionate and sensitive towards the fact that government cannot give you anything that it does not first take away from you; that government has to restrain its need for more and more dollars on a continuing basis if it is going to adequately serve the needs of the people of this province.

I have to tell the House leader and the members of his government that over the course of the days and weeks ahead, we are going to identify for them, on a line-by-line basis, areas where this government could realize a saving of some dollars. We are going to tell them where this government can show a degree of restraint in spending that can result in perhaps a few dollars being left in the taxpayers' pocketbook.

Let me give them a couple of quick examples. My colleagues are saying that I am going somewhat beyond the time that is allowed to me, but I have to share this with the members, because I think they are important points.

One of the points I want to make today is about the introduction of boards like this Ontario Automobile Insurance Board. Does the Solicitor General (Mrs. Smith) have any idea what that is going to cost the province? I ask her if she knows what the Treasurer is going to have to provide by way of brand-new revenue for this brand-new service, which hiked auto insurance rates to unprecedented levels in this province as a result of the boondoggle that has caused. I will not get into that issue at the moment, only the cost of it. The cost of that little review exercise we are now going to go through, I guess on an annualized basis, is about \$7 million.

Let's take a look at another rather expansive move that was made by the current government. They took a rent control program that was in place in 1985 and they said, "We have to make certain adjustments to make this more fair and more equitable." They literally brought the private development community to its knees. That is why, as we told them, there are no new apartments and no new housing being built for people at the affordable level any more in this province.

Aside from that, because of all these moves that were made by both this administration and the administration that was elected and put in place by the unholy accord of 1985, they have taken a rent review process that started out costing \$7 million and wrestled that all the way down to \$40 million—a \$33-million increase. The program has gone from \$7 million to \$40 million, but have we got more housing as a result of that?

Some hon. members: No.

Mr. Brandt: Have we got more programs we are able to give to the people who require affordable accommodation?

Some hon. members: No.

Mr. Brandt: What have we received for that additional \$33 million? More bureaucrats. We have more bureaucrats. We have more delays in the rent review process. We have a large bureaucracy now which can shuffle more paper around.

Mr. Eves: Plus higher taxes.

Mr. Harris: And higher taxes.

Mr. Brandt: And higher taxes, my friends say to me.

That is exactly what they have developed as a direct result of what they tampered with, which was a reasonable process that was in place back in those days. They could save a tremendous amount of money—

Interjections.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: It is not very often the Tories acknowledge they were responsible for that program.

Mr. Brandt: As I recall, it was put in place in 1975 at the urging of certain other parties that were in the Legislature. I recall further, although I was not here in this House at that time, but as an interested observer of the political process, I understood that it had three-party support at that particular point in time and we have developed our programs from that point.

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Let me say as well that if the Treasurer is looking for areas where he can save a few dollars, what he should look at perhaps is a slowdown, at the very least, of the increase in the size of the bureaucracy. There is no bureaucracy in the country growing as fast as the Treasurer's. He ought to be embarrassed, after the things he said when he was on this side of the House. He used to talk about the fat-cat bureaucracy when he was in opposition.

I have to tell him that nothing is as bloated as what he has allowed to happen. He is taking on new employees in Ontario at a rate well in excess of 1,500 or 2,000 every year.

He will be pleased to know that there is no time limit in this debate, so that we can go on at some length. I want to share these things with him because I want to find a way to help the people of Ontario keep some of their money in their own pockets. I want to tell the Treasurer that he is heading in the wrong direction.

Our party is vehemently against the level of tax increase that he has brought upon Ontario and the people of this province. What he has done hurts everyone.

In closing, let me simply say that we are going to continue—

Mr. Villeneuve: They deserve more.

Mr. Brandt: Well, I can continue.

Mr. Fleet: You have worn that one out several times.

Mr. Brandt: Well, then, let me get into the question of the sin taxes that the Treasurer raised, because I have not touched on that yet. I want to cover the sin taxes, which include all of those things such as cigarette and liquor taxes. He just taxed everything that moved and many things that did not move.

But in addition to that, do members know what he did in an attempt to sell an environmental control policy for Ontario? He took the price of leaded gas and increased it to the same level as unleaded gas. I do not have any problem with his doing that.

Mr. Fleet: It is a good tax.

Mr. Brandt: It is a good tax? Oh, I want to know if the member wants to go on record as indicating that it is a good tax, because I can name the member, if he would like, for posterity's sake. If he wants to be in Hansard I will do so. There are few taxes that I would categorize as good, but this one here bears a little bit of investigation in terms of how it came about.

Mr. Fleet: Of course, it is a good tax.

Mr. Brandt: What happened was that the Treasurer raised gasoline taxes a cent a litre across the board, as members well recall. But with leaded gas, what he stated at that particular time was that he was going to raise that to a level which would equalize it with unleaded gas for environmental purposes. So he had to add another three cents, approximately, to the price of leaded gas. That was a total of four cents for that particular type of gasoline; and he did it in order to reduce the amount of tetraethyl lead in our environment and to reduce the amount of lead poisoning that is of concern to all of us who are concerned about the environment today.

But what the Treasurer did not tell the people was that he could have equalized those two gas prices by doing the reverse of that. He could very simply have reduced the price of the tax on unleaded gas and brought it down to the same level as leaded gas to accomplish effectively the same end result.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I never thought of that.

Mr. Brandt: Why did the Treasurer not do that? Why did he not once, with the benevolence in that crusty old heart of his, give the taxpayers of this province a bit of a break? Why did he not show some sympathy for the fact that he has got both of his hands in all four of their pockets? There is a limit to what the people of this province can afford to pay; there is a limit to how many items the Treasurer can find to tax.

I wait with some degree of anticipation for the next budget brought down by this Treasurer, because if he even attempts to raise the taxes of this province by \$1.3 billion again, I concern myself with his very wellbeing. They are going to run him right back to St. George and to Earl's Shell in a broken-down limo, and he will have to sit in the front seat perhaps; I do not know. The fact of the matter is that that \$1.3 billion represented the largest tax increase in the history of this province. I know the Treasurer takes issue with that, but it was.

In addition to that, it came at a time, I say to my colleagues and friends in this House, of record revenues. I can understand the need, on occasion, when one is going through a recession or difficult times, when more taxes are needed to pay for certain essential programs. That is understandable and that would be acceptable even though it is difficult to sell to the communities at large because no one likes tax increases. But when we have record revenues coupled with record tax increases, that is a little too much to stomach. The Treasurer has gone too far. Our party opposes his tax increases and we will continue to oppose them. I know this is not going to change his mind.

I wish something I could say today would reach that heart of his. I wish I could return to the days when he had that gentle, caring heart of an opposition member; when he sat over in these benches and when he used to make such an impassioned plea to keep taxes under control; and when he coined words like "regressivity" as being the benchmark for what we could term any kind of an increase in sales tax. He was the one who said that one would hit those poor people most directly as a result of those kinds of taxes, and I agreed with him then, but I disagree with him now.

Mr. B. Rae: It is great to have the leader of the third party back. He is obviously well in tune now in terms of the issues that are ongoing, and I think the speech and indeed the vigour of it and certainly the length of it, are certainly signs of his continued vitality. Any talk of the leader of the

third party being only an interim leader I continue to find implausible, to say the least, certainly in terms of that performance which in its length, if nothing else, indicates that vitality.

I do want to say that I know this is supposed to be the culmination of the debate on the budget. I must confess to having no appetite for returning to the Treasurer's budget of last year. I will, of course, refer to it because I have to, but I do not want to focus too much attention simply on that budget. I do want to say to members that—

Interjections.

Mr. B. Rae: I appreciate the attention we get from the rump over here; it is such a lively and interesting group to have. It is like hearing the noise off your left ear from the back of the bus. It adds to the sense of dynamism of this place.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: It is not the rump; it is the talent bank.

Mr. B. Rae: It is the talent bank.

Mrs. Grier: It is well banked.

Mr. B. Rae: As my colleague says, it is well banked. I thought he was going to say it was his brains trust, but I did not hear him say that. That in itself is an indication.

On the cover page of every government speech, there are always three little words that I think symbolize what has happened to this once-great Liberal Party. Those three little words are—

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Mr. Brandt: What are those words?

Mr. B. Rae: I thank the leader; I appreciate his help. Those three little words are, "Check against delivery."

Mr. Fleet: It is not very original, Bob.

Mr. B. Rae: Yes. Whenever I hear the speeches—

Hon. R. F. Nixon: A dead silence reigns as the reality dawns, the true meaning of this.

Hon. Mr. Conway: You now say check statistics against library research unit.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: It sounds to me like the government House leader is pretty touchy.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. B. Rae: The government House leader is going to have an opportunity to be as personal and as abusive and as tendentious as he wants to be when he stands up. We will all give him the opportunity to be that way. I am sure he will have the opportunity to defend the indefensible.

Hon. Mr. Conway: What is abusive about that observation?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. B. Rae: But I do think the House ought to have an opportunity to deal very directly with the issues in front of us. We have a province which is well off in terms of its gross provincial product, in terms of the economic growth which has been experienced in this province, but we do not have a province which is well off in terms of how it shares that wealth, in terms of how it deals with the poverty in our midst. We have a government which has failed systematically to live up to the promises it has made to the people of the province.

I want to take four particular areas and only four. I could take many more; I do not want to take more than that. I want to take the four major areas of government expenditure. I want to take those principal items of where a government is supposed to spend. I take a different point of view from that expressed by the leader of the third party. He has given what, I suppose, can be described as the classic Tory speech in opposition. It is also the speech which the Liberals, as he quite rightly pointed out, used to give in opposition, and that is to say that systematically the government should be spending less and should be taxing much less and to simply go around to everybody and say, "Wouldn't it be great and wouldn't it be easy if the government simply taxed less and spent less?"

That philosophy has been, I suppose, best expressed in government in the policies of Ronald Reagan and best expressed in policies in terms of the government of Margaret Thatcher. It is certainly a theory that has taken off in terms of its political resonance. But when you look at the problems which even the Tories raise from day to day in opposition—whether those problems are in transportation, urban planning, health care, hospital care, the institutional side of health or to do with community health spending—you look through the range of things that government has to do.

I am here to say I believe profoundly that government has to spend better, invest more wisely and cut back in areas where there is waste. But I do not think that our problems in this country today or in this province today are going to be solved by simply issuing hosannas to something called small or less government. That is an illusion of our time. If we think that is going to be the solution to the problems of our time, we are suffering from some terrible illusions which will turn out to be very expensive.

If I can give one example, in my constituency office on Tuesday night I was visited by a woman

who has multiple sclerosis. She is, I would guess, probably in her late 40s or early 50s. She was married. Upon receiving the diagnosis of multiple sclerosis and getting very ill, her marriage broke up. She is on her own. She has a condominium which she purchased in about 1975 for \$59,000 or \$60,000.

Her daughter was caring for her and living with her all this time. Her daughter has finally graduated from university and has a job working in Saskatchewan. It was the first job she was able to get and it is a job she very much wanted to take. She did not want to leave her mother, but she wanted to get a job. She is 24 years old. She took the job.

This woman also has a son. He is at the University of Ottawa. The woman got a bill from the university saying that her son was \$1,600 in arrears for his tuition and his other costs.

I began to chat with this woman and talk about her experiences. She lives on her own. She has no one to care for her. She is visited occasionally by friends and other people, but because of her isolation, she has fewer and fewer people who come in to see her. She has been ill for the last 13 years.

There is no homemaking service which will systematically provide care for her. She has difficulty cooking for herself, and in fact, she says there are many days when she goes without any food at all. She lives on a pension from the employer she had back in 1975, which is \$193 a month. She gets a Canada pension because of her disability, and she also gets some support payments from her husband.

Because she gets some support payments from her husband and because she is on Canada pension and because she has a private pension, she does not qualify for welfare. This is not a discussion of welfare. This is a discussion of somebody who lives in an apartment, which she owns, who has an income of, I would think, about \$1,200 a month, who has no one coming to see her, who lives on her own.

I do not believe that in Ontario, where that woman is malnourished, has no dentist, cannot afford to go the dentist—the last time she went to a dentist, he said it would cost her \$1,200 to get her teeth fixed. She has no way, for example, of avoiding the obligations that she has for her son.

I talked to this woman for about an hour or an hour and a half, and I was faced at the end of that conversation with a sense not only of the complete injustice of a society which has so little to offer this woman, whose natural sense of injustice, faced with the unfairness of life itself,

about which we can do very little in terms of illness and health and the disasters with which we and our families are from time to time afflicted—but to couple that with a government and a society and a system of values, frankly, which is shared by this government and, in large measure, by the third party, the Conservative party—and for me to say: “Well, now, I know the answer to your problem. The answer to your problem is less government.”

That is not the answer to her problem. The reality of finding a solution, not to all of this woman's problems but to her situation, and addressing that situation requires a sense of justice. It requires a sense of commitment from the people who live in the community and it requires, frankly, a government that is prepared to lead and to act.

The story that I have told is not a unique story. It is a story that anyone in this room could tell. It is a story that flows from any one of a number of encounters which any one of us can have over the period of a week or indeed over the period of a day. I am not going to spend much time in this speech saying that if we were in government there would be no problems, or as the leader of the third party said, “I am going to give the same kind of speech which the government House leader used to give when he was in opposition.” The government House leader is going to say, “Well, I am going to give the same kind of speech which the Conservatives used to give when they were in government.”

Surely, at some point, politics has to mean more than just a kind of parliamentary or televised game in which we share with one another postures and positions which some people take when they are in opposition and some people take when in government. Then when the chairs are changed around, other people will take a different position, and we will have a kind of ritual back and forth in terms of what has gone on.

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We have many parliamentary rituals, and this is one of them. But what I want to suggest to the government is simply this: This government was elected with a massive majority because people felt a change had taken place in 1985 which basically they wanted to see continue. There are many people who will look back over that period and say: “Don't you regret not getting more credit for what took place between 1985 and 1987? Do you think you should have more, or less?”

That is not at issue now. What is at issue now is not a question of promises, but a question of the promise that came out of that 1987 election, and of the sense, which I think is pervasive in our province today, that this promise simply has not been lived up to. We can talk about units of housing that were promised that have not been built: They are not there; they are not affordable; they are not accessible; they are not available; they are not there.

If I think of my constituency, the major social problem we face right now, obviously and overwhelmingly, is housing. I look at the solutions that are available for the people in my constituency and they do not come close to meeting the needs of just one part of Ontario, of just one little pocket of Metropolitan Toronto. I am sure what I am saying can be shared by literally all the members of this House; certainly, by all the members of our caucus.

In my constituency office, and I am sure I share this with other members, I have literally hundreds of people who are on a waiting list for housing, who have absolutely no prospect of ever being adequately or appropriately housed under the systems that have been established by this government. They have not the slightest chance under this government of ever getting off that waiting list.

What does that mean? I was at a tenants' meeting in my constituency on Monday night, where a woman said, "Mr. Rae, I have nine rats that I am keeping in bottles on the windowsill outside my basement apartment, because I want to show them to the building inspector when he comes, but he never comes around."

Then I said, "Have you been on a waiting list?" and she said, "I have been on a waiting list for seven years to get into some kind of assisted housing." I said, "What do they tell you now?" She said: "Because I have made something of my life and I now make a salary and have a job, there is no prospect of my getting on to any affordable housing list. I am stuck where I am and there is little prospect of my getting away from that."

She is not alone. She is not the only person in Toronto who faces that situation. She is not unique in that situation. Yet we have a government that promised us—all the numbers began to flow—102,000 units by 1989; then, the promise was switched to 30,000 units in three years, of which only two thirds have been announced and not a single unit has been built.

That is the kind of inactivity, the kind of lethargy, the kind of failure of political will to respond to a major social problem of our times

that makes the very name of government stick in the craws of hundreds of thousands of decent people. They have become fed up with the political process, when it cannot even deliver on something as basic as their housing needs.

The only response from this government is to say: "It is a sweet problem. It is a sweet headache." Sometimes I wonder whether members of the government live in the same universe as the citizens they are supposed to be representing. Sometimes I wonder whether they are living in the same part of the world or whether they really understand the conditions people have to live under day by day.

The government manages to tax and tax, and people just do not see those programs in place that make a difference to them and their families. That is the frustration right now, which lies at the very core of what, I think, is a crisis of confidence in government itself that the people of this province are facing.

The Treasurer was quoted the other day, with respect to the Thomson report, as saying that he was unsure of his response to the Thomson report. We hear rumours that the Treasurer's officials believe that in fact the dollar requirements to meet the first phase of Thomson would be in excess of the \$200 million provincially that is talked about in the Thomson report. We understand there are many officials in his department who are saying that it will cost more than that to meet the obligations of changing our social assistance system.

The Treasurer was quoted as saying outside this House that because of the costs, he was not certain how much of Thomson it would be possible to do and how much reform would be possible, that it was impossible to think about bringing in those changes because of the impact it would have in other areas: the impact it would have on housing, the impact it would have on the government's health program or the impact it might have on its education program.

I think there is something very wrong with the government and something very wrong with what has happened to Liberalism in this province. They are finally faced with a report that states as clearly and categorically as one can imagine that there is a problem that is a human problem of enormous dimensions and cost, both personal and economic and social, but principally a personal cost that is borne by people who live in conditions that are squalid and appalling, and who have very little chance or prospect of moving out of these conditions. This government has had six months to respond to that report and

we have not had a word of action or of response to that major criticism of our social welfare system and that major criticism of poverty in our province that was made by George Thomson.

The only thing that has been implemented out of the Thomson report has been George Thomson. Nothing else out of the Thomson report has been touched. I hope others are as lucky as George Thomson.

Let's remember what it is like to be a poor child. There is no food. There is hunger, crummy housing, bad housing and unsafe housing. There are no trips, no proper shoes, no proper clothes, no toys, no Valentine's cards for others, no hobbies and no holidays. All of us here are looking forward to a holiday. We are going to be taking a holiday of one kind or another. I do not think any of us resent that, but let us for a moment reflect on the fact that there are kids today in our school system whose parents and who themselves are so poor that they will never have the chance of a holiday unless they get picked for the Fresh Air Fund by the Toronto Star or by some local charity. That is what we are up against.

Have we really moved that far from the 19th century? I do not think we have. Have we really moved that far from the notion in our society that you are going to have very rich people, you are going to have a lot of middle-income people and you are going to have a lot of very poor people, and the very poor people will get by as best they can? They will get some handouts from the government. They will get some handouts from private charity. We have not moved. We have not advanced at all on that basic assumption about how our society will be divided up and how chances will be divided up and how opportunities will be divided up.

Go to any inner city school in this province today, go on to a native reserve, go into any community and sit in the back of a classroom and look at a five-year-old kid in the eyes and ask yourself: "Does this kid have a chance? Is this kid going to have a chance if the only meal he gets throughout the day is a bottle of pop and a bag of potato chips?"

That kid is not really going to have a chance if when he goes home there is not a book, there is not a sense at all of what the opportunities out there are, and if there is violence and if there is poverty and if there is squalor and if there is dirt. Yet that is what there is. Not for everybody; I am not suggesting for a moment that is the condition in which most people in this province find themselves because it is not. It is the condition in

which a very large number of people find themselves.

This government has done absolutely nothing about it—nothing. The whole concept of poverty and of understanding and dealing with poverty is not even mentioned in the budget. In fact, when the Treasurer produces his economic analysis, which he presents to the people of the province as to how well we are all doing and how well we are growing and what the growth rate is and what the inflation rate is and what the employment levels are, he does not mention once in that document, not a word, who is rich, who is poor, what the educational levels are, what the educational opportunities are, who is well housed, who is badly housed, who is well off and who is badly off.

If we are going to take an economic assessment of where we are in this province, surely we have advanced beyond the 19th century notion that the only way you assess that is by looking at the statistics that cover the questions of productivity and inflation and employment.

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The one thing I would hope the Treasurer would do in any future budget and in any future analysis of where we are, and the one thing the Thomson report, it seems to me on a procedural level alone, cries out for the Treasurer to do, is to integrate the reality of poverty into everything that government does and all the programs that are put out and brought about and that are in place.

We have to come to terms with this disease called inequality in our midst. It is produced by capitalism. It is generated by our economy. Our economy generates poverty as surely as it generates wealth.

I am not asking this government to suddenly decide that it is a believer in a different kind of economic and social order, because I do not think that is ever going to happen. I have never had that view of what liberalism was all about. But I would have expected that this government would have said, in response to the Thomson report back in September: "Okay, we understand the problem. Now we're ready to go and we're ready to move and we're ready to act. We're going to take it seriously and we're going to deal with it." That has not happened.

Je crois que le plus grand engagement d'un gouvernement, c'est de créer des conditions acceptables pour tous les citoyens de la province. On peut parler des philosophes et de leurs points de vue sur les buts démocratiques d'un gouvernement; mais, sûrement, le test fondamental d'un

gouvernement — d'une civilisation — c'est la façon dont nous traitons les gens qui sont les plus vulnérables dans notre société.

Comment est-ce que nous traitons les personnes âgées? Comment est-ce que nous traitons les petits enfants? Comment est-ce que nous traitons les gens qui n'ont rien dans les poches? Comment est-ce que nous traitons, comme société, les gars qui ont travaillé et qui sont handicapés à l'âge de 40 ou de 45 ans et qui maintenant n'ont rien dans les poches, rien à la maison et rien à manger?

C'est ça, la réalité, pour un grand nombre de nos citoyens. Le test fondamental d'un gouvernement, c'est, à mon avis, la façon dont il traite ses citoyens. Où est l'amour que les gens ont pour leurs voisins, et oui, pour les étrangers? C'est sûrement la question morale la plus fondamentale, et c'est le test le plus fondamental pour les gouvernements, les partis politiques et la société en général.

I really do believe that the fundamental test of any government is how it treats those who are the most vulnerable in its society and in its midst. The fundamental test of any society is how it reaches out and helps and touches and loves those who have been rejected by the rest of society because they cannot compete in the marketplace.

What do we do for the 50-year-old woman who has multiple sclerosis and who is suddenly on her own? We cannot change the afflictions of God or the afflictions of nature, but by God, we can change the afflictions of government and make sure we have governments that finally respond to the woman who is living in that fifth-floor apartment and has not seen a soul for two days, who is living on her own and not eating at all. That is the test of government.

I say with due respect to my friends to my left that I know over the next two years we are going to be hearing a lot about taxes, and I know we are going to be hearing a lot about where governments have wasted. I know that is going to be the message from that party because it used to be the message from these guys when they were in government.

Nobody believes more fundamentally than I do in a fair tax system, and nobody understands better than I do the resentment ordinary people feel when they see their taxes going up all the time and they do not see the benefits to them and to their families from those tax increases.

I am here to say that is not the fundamental test of government. The fundamental test of government is how it responds to the most pressing social problems of our time and how it responds to people. I do not think this government meets

that test. If you look at the test, what has this government done? This government has coasted. Why has it coasted? How has it coasted?

It has coasted for the very simple reason that it has benefited from an enormous economic boom, the longest, and yes, the deepest and widest boom in our recent memory in terms of what has happened to our provincial economy. The last seven years have seen an extraordinary turnaround and that, not the charisma of the Premier and not the abilities or inabilities of any cabinet minister one way or the other, is what has given the Treasurer the ability to spend the money the way he has been spending it and given this government its ability to coast. That is the beginning and the end of it.

But what are we going to do now when there is such a compelling need not simply to coast, but to change, to recognize there are citizens who are left out of this economic boom and to recognize there will always be people left out of the economic boom because of the inequalities that are generated by that economy in and of itself?

That economy on its own can only generate wealth and poverty. It does not know how to generate anything else. It is not designed to generate anything else. If you want to generate justice, it has to come from the community and from a government that expresses the democratic will of the people, that says: "We can do better than generate wealth and poverty. We can generate love and justice." That is what a government in this province should be doing and that is what this government is not doing.

That is the test of government and that, it seems to me, is where this government has failed, not because it has put ads in one newspaper and not in another newspaper, not because some minister has screwed up on some accounting and done something wrong, not because somebody has not declared a conflict of interest where he should have. These are not the fundamental issues of government and I do not believe they ever will be.

One of the fundamental issues of government is whether a government is responding, reacting, leading and taking the decisions that make a difference and that will change the lives of people whose lives, on their own, will not and cannot be changed because the economy works against them. It is designed to work against them and is intended to work against them. It has succeeded in working against them.

There is an extraordinary sense of lethargy and of complacency at the heart of this government. I have sat here and watched it. I have seen the

indecision. Somebody said to me the other day that the only reason the Premier always wears a red tie is that it means he does not have to make a decision in the morning deciding what tie to put on.

I do not think that is an exaggeration. I have not seen a decision taken by this government on a major issue of economic or social policy that mattered to people, that helped people, that lived up to its commitment. The government has systematically given in to the powerful interests, whether it is on pensions as we have seen today or whether it is on insurance as we have seen over the last little while.

The government has failed to plan. It has failed to meet the tests in terms of simple, efficient and effective management of government. But the tests it has failed above all, are the tests of love and justice. That is the failure that lies at the heart of the Liberal regime in this province.

Hon. Mr. Conway: It is an honour and a privilege for me to follow the Leader of the Opposition and the leader of the third party in the conclusion of this budgetary debate. I must say, having just heard the Leader of the Opposition, I cannot remember anyone in this chamber in recent times who has given such force to that social gospel tradition so famous within the democratic left in this province.

He did it with moving effect this afternoon and I must congratulate him for that. I was quite genuinely moved by the observations he made in respect of those important issues of social justice. I want to say a little more about that perhaps a little later in the speech, which I will try to bring in at a relatively short time.

I must of course take issue with his perception of the government because, as we heard him, he ended his remarks about what he perceives the government to be about and I must say that I do not share that analysis. As to our friend the leader of the third party—

Mr. B. Rae: I am not surprised to hear that.

Hon. Mr. Conway: The Leader of the Opposition says he is not surprised to hear that. His perceptions about matters relating to the affairs of Ontario are matters I might want to talk a little bit more about shortly.

1730

The leader of the third party? Well, he was at his best this afternoon, reviewing a variety of the issues that are on his mind in respect to budgetary and other policy in the province.

I want to just simply say it is a pleasure for me to conclude the budget debate in the presence of

our distinguished and senior colleague the member for Brant-Haldimand, who has been very busy in this session and certainly very busy on this day. I know that he has pressing obligations that are going to take him to my part of the province later this afternoon, so in particular regard to his schedule I will try to move through this debate this afternoon.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: For the second time today.

Hon. Mr. Conway: As the Treasurer says, he is going to Ottawa for the second time today. That is a very good sign, I think.

It has been a good debate, this budget debate, over 11 days, begun last spring, carried through the spring and into this final week of the first session of this 34th parliament.

We have had some very interesting participation. My friend the member for Durham Centre (Mr. Furlong), who is in the chamber this afternoon, was on his feet in this debate speaking eloquently about what this budget does to commit additional resources so that new schools can be built in his important and growing part of Ontario.

My friend the member for York East (Ms. Hart) participated in the debate, saying that this budget was going to allow more in the way of environmental protection, particularly in the area of water pollution and, most especially, in allowing the so-called municipal-industrial strategy for abatement program to get up and running.

My friend now absent from the chamber, the squire of Moose Creek, the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (Mr. Villeneuve), was talking about budgetary matters. Dredging, I think, was one of his concerns in that rural part of eastern Ontario.

The member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) entered the debate to talk about the important initiatives that are required in the area of housing.

My friend the member for Oxford (Mr. Tatham)—I do not know that he is here this afternoon—talked about what this budget will do to support very important agricultural initiatives, in the area particularly of the Ontario Farm-Start program and Food Systems 2000.

That is just to mention some of the members who have participated, and I know that the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) is here because he is very supportive of this budget, which does so much to encourage that critical sector of the Ontario economy.

Of course, who in this chamber this afternoon will forget the day on which the Treasurer tried to read the budget, April 20, 1988, when I think for the first time in the long and distinguished history

of this assembly a minister of finance for the province was not allowed to read the budget in this chamber? That was a very disappointing day because we feel this is a very positive document that we wanted to have read in this chamber. Because of the obstruction of the opposition, the distinguished member for Brant-Haldimand was not allowed to read the budget, as I say, for I believe the first time in the history of Ontario.

What does this budget do? It does a lot of very good and important things. It commits nearly \$38 billion of expenditure to a whole host of areas of public policy in the province. It is true what our friends in the third party say: It certainly does increase the level of support to a whole area of government policy. Of the increase in spending, and I think this is very important, 80 per cent of that increase is dedicated to this government's priorities: namely, health care, education, housing and assistance for those in need.

We are not ashamed of that. We have looked at the pressures identified by our friends on both sides of the aisle and we have indicated that while all are interesting and most are important, some, quite frankly, are more important than others, and for this government the priorities lie in the areas of the health care, education, housing and assistance to those in need.

While committing nearly \$38 billion in this fiscal year to the budgetary plan, this Treasurer has brought down the net cash requirements to something now like \$271 million, their lowest level in 15 years. I say to my friends in the third party that the budget also contains an in-year constraint of some \$500 million, which the Treasurer tells me is very much on track. So there is, in the best tradition of the Ontario Liberal Party and in the very great tradition of this Treasurer, a very good balance between social justice and fiscal responsibility.

We over here listen to those over there talk about the needs and their budgetary plan. It was very interesting today, I say to my friends, to listen to the leader of the third party, because he stood there in his charming way saying that we ought to spend more and tax less. He was in the chamber about a month ago in question period. I brought the Hansard because I thought: could I really be hearing what I was hearing?

On January 31, the leader of the third party stood up with his two leadoff questions. The first question was really given over to taxes, to how and when this Treasurer is going to stop with tax increases and where he is going to start with tax cuts. That was the first question.

The second question had to do with increased spending in the area of health care. Everyone knows there is no greater commitment that this government—to be fair, the previous government also has made no greater commitment in the area of financial resources than health care. In the space of two questions the leader of the third party is saying tax less and spend more. What are we to make of that?

Mr. Neumann: And cut the deficit.

Hon. Mr. Conway: And as the member for Brantford says, cut the deficit.

I was trying to think of an analogy as to how one would best convey the conundrum in which the leader of the third party puts himself in this kind of a situation, and really the only one I can think about is the aviator Wrong Way Corrigan. Do members remember Wrong Way Corrigan way back there, I think, in the 1920s, the great aviator who left New York setting out for Paris but landed in Los Angeles? Poor Wrong Way Corrigan could not really make up his mind as to which direction—

Mr. Brandt: Is that the best one you could come up with, Sean? I can give you a better one than that.

Hon. Mr. Conway: It is the best one I could get. I must admit I am not happy, because I am sure there is in literature or in Hollywood or on Broadway some better character.

But really, I say to the members of the third party, what are they all about? How can they be taken seriously in these matters of budgetary policy when on days like the one I have mentioned, the poor leader gets up and says, "When are you going to cut taxes, when are you going to reduce the deficit; and by the way when are you going to increase spending on a whole series of fronts?"

I have to say to my friend the leader of the third party, who I notice is not standing in the leadership race for that party—

Hon. R. F. Nixon: He is the only one who isn't.

Hon. Mr. Conway: My friend the Treasurer says, "He is the only who isn't."

The member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) is apparently going to join the race. He said to the Globe and Mail the other day, and I brought the clipping, that Bill Davis, when he was Premier of Ontario, made some mistakes. According to the member for Nipissing, the Davis years, the last years of the Tories, were characterized by policies that were too interventionist, too political and there were altogether too many handouts

to industries and such concerns. That was reported in the *Globe and Mail* of January 11, 1989. What are we to make of that?

Now we see the member for Leeds-Grenville (Mr. Runciman), who is about to join the race, going through a transformation that is positively breathtaking.

Mr. Brandt: What's this got to do with the budget? Get back on the budget, Sean.

Hon. Mr. Conway: My friend the leader of third party asks, "What's this got to do with the budget?" I make the point to my friend the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry that we are putting before this assembly a budgetary policy that is consistent, that is balanced, that meets the priority needs as we have identified them in this province, I repeat, in the areas of health care, housing, education and assistance to those in need, while at the same time bringing in net cash requirements at a 15-year low and, under the leadership of this Treasurer, producing an in-year constraint of \$500 million.

1740

Mr. Brandt: He hasn't done it yet. He won't do it either, and you know it. It will be a historic first if he does it. He hasn't done it yet. Don't go talking about it like it has happened.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I say to my friend the member for Sarnia that under the leadership of the Premier and the Treasurer, we are now into our seventh year of consecutive economic growth. I do not intend to recite all of the facts, but in 1988, the calendar year, employment in this province increased at a record pace. Some 180,000 new jobs were created in this province and some of those jobs are in communities like Bancroft, and Sterling in the honourable member's riding, and he knows that.

Inflation continues to be moderate, and I have to say to my friend the leader of the third party that this budget—

Mr. Brandt: Blame the feds.

Hon. Mr. Conway: No, I am not going to blame the feds. I am going to talk about the budgetary policy of this Treasurer and this government. Let's look at what this budget does specifically.

It stimulates research and development through such programs as the \$45-million superallowance. It contains as well a manufacturing investment incentive, which is expected at maturity to support \$6 billion of Ontario investment annually.

In the area of housing, this budget commits \$2 billion of Canada pension plan funds to the nonprofit housing sector, and that will add very substantially to the housing stock of this province. We have, on this side, in this government, a very, very determined and creative Minister of Housing, who is seeing that policy through.

Provincial housing support and shelter subsidies have increased from less than \$300 million four years ago to over \$970 million in this fiscal year, 1989-90. That, I say to my friends opposite, is a 238 per cent increase.

This budget commits new resources to expand the number of residences at the post-secondary educational sector, a very important initiative well received by young people in this province.

This budget commits the government to a new program, the so-called OHOSP program, the Ontario home ownership savings plan, which is already helping thousands of young families save for the purchase of that first home.

I want to talk a little bit about health care. Of the new spending that is committed in this budget, 39 per cent is in the area of health care. The total provincial health budget has risen to nearly \$13 billion—\$12.7 billion, to be specific—up year over year by more than \$1.2 billion. That amounts to \$1,300 per Ontario resident, a not inconsequential commitment to a quality health care system in Ontario.

Of the new spending in this budget, 18 per cent is in the area of education. The Treasurer announced in the budget a \$900-million commitment, over three years, to capital construction. The other day when the Minister of Finance for Canada announced that we had been undervalued in terms of our in-year share of taxes collected, some \$300 million additional dollars was committed to educational capital to the advantage of school boards as they plan their capital programs. Again, this is a very significant real dollar commitment to education in the province.

Operating grants are well up this year, well above inflation. This says nothing about the additional millions that are being spent to reduce class size at the primary level, to increase the support for textbooks and computers and to improve science education, particularly at the elementary level; again not unimportant initiatives being ably directed by my colleagues the member for Wentworth North, the Minister of Education (Mr. Ward) and the member for Fort William, the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mrs. McLeod).

At the post-secondary level, grants worth some \$38 million are available to improve

accessibility. Some \$440 million over four years has been made available for post-secondary capital improvements, and an additional \$40 million is being spent on adult literacy programs.

In the area of regional development, this budget commits very significant new resources to the northern heritage fund, some \$360 million to stimulate northern economic development and \$25 million to an eastern Ontario development fund to allow communities like Bancroft and Pembroke and Cornwall and Smiths Falls to grow in this modern economy of ours.

I mentioned agriculture earlier. Do members know that the agricultural budget is up 86 per cent, an 86 per cent increase since 1984-85? That speaks very loudly for the leadership of the member for Huron (Mr. Riddell) and our rural caucus.

The member for Markham (Mr. Cousins), now absent from the chamber, was talking about roads and transportation. I know as well as most people, since I spend a lot of my life on the roads of this province, that there never seems to be enough, but this budget increased the capital funding for highways by \$100 million, and in my part of the world that is a very considerable amount of money.

I am glad that my friend the squire from Moose Creek is here, because he knows that in that part of eastern Ontario, as everywhere in the province, environmental concerns and environmental protection is very important. In this very important area, government spending is up, I am quite prepared to admit. Our spending on the environment is up 51 per cent over the last year that the Tories were responsible for the public finances. It is true to say we have hired more public servants to strengthen the enforcement. What is the point of having great legislation if you are not out there enforcing it? We have put additional resources and we have hired additional people to improve the enforcement of our environmental rules and regulations.

We are spending money to clean up the beaches of Ontario, and in the area of recycling we have committed very substantial new dollars under the leadership of my friend the member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley). Funding for recycling has increased tenfold since 1985.

I think that is an outstanding record. I could go on, and I think I will, because I listened to my friends in the opposition talk about the government as not doing anything.

I said earlier that the perceptions of the opposition members are their business. I make only this comment for my friend the Leader of the

Opposition, and the leader of the government made the comment earlier this week. What does one make of the perceptions of the Leader of the Opposition?

On September 11, 1987, the Leader of the Opposition thought he won the election. It was not until his colleague the member for Oshawa said: "No, no, Bob. No, no, 19 is less than 95. They won."

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Less than 25 too.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I am not going to get into that, although that would perhaps be tempting.

I want to talk about some of the things that this government has done outside of the budget. We talk about the environment.

Mr. Breagh: Lap it up, Sean; this may be your last big shot.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I want to say to my friend the member for Oshawa that, as he knows, this government has done more in the area of the environment than any government you can find in Canada today: New penalties for polluters; a recycling program that is very, very extensive now in our schools; a Countdown Acid Rain program which has achieved major reductions in sulphur dioxide emissions; and yes, an intervenor funding commitment on behalf of this government.

In the area of health care, the Premier has gathered together a group of very, very good people in the council on health strategy to advise ways and means of doing some things more creatively as we face the challenges of the future. There is also a \$100-million commitment to the health innovation fund to help that creativity along in so far as changing the basic infrastructure of our system is concerned. Our friend the very able member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay (Mr. Black) has done good work in the critical area of drug education and drug policy.

I am glad to have my friend the Minister of Education here in the front row this afternoon, because in addition to the things that I talked about earlier he has overseen a number of other very important initiatives: like a new policy on heritage language instruction; like important new initiatives in the area of co-operative education; like establishing a French-language school board in Ottawa-Carleton; like six centres for entrepreneurship; like a French-language college, I will say to my friend the member for Fort William (Mrs. McLeod). They are very important, concrete initiatives that people out there in Bancroft and elsewhere understand because this is a government doing things for people.

1750

The Leader of the Opposition asked us to wonder about what it is we are doing for those in need. He will want me to say that this government has doubled the provincial funding for day care. We have substantially improved access for the disabled in terms of their transportation needs. There is the assistance we have committed to the elderly through the homemaker program. These are but three examples of where it has moved, I think responsibly, in those areas.

I want to say to my friends opposite, particularly in the official opposition, that I think Stephen Lewis said it all when he told Maclean's magazine before Christmas, and I quote that icon of the left in Canada, "Several people within the party had stars of power dancing in their head. The NDP exists primarily to shape public policy and not to govern."

I have to say it is hard to disagree with the former and very distinguished leader of the Ontario New Democratic Party. It is very easy to work out a vast and elaborate scheme of what one might do, but one has to take seriously the responsibility of office and one might even ask, "What does one find when one sees the NDP in office?" I think, very quickly—

Mrs. Grier: Integrity.

Hon. Mr. Conway: The member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore says "integrity." Remember back to the last NDP government in Manitoba? They could not even count on their own caucus. Poor old Jim Walding felt so abused and maltreated that he wandered off one day, the government collapsed and there was poor Howard Pawley wondering where to turn in the face of their great insurance policy, which of course ended Gary Doer's very brief hope of ever forming a government.

I do not want to be too partisan. I want to say to my friends that it is important to listen to what members say in the assembly. I repeat that I found the Leader of the Opposition genuinely moving in what he said today, but I have to say to my friend the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie) that one has to square the NDP rhetoric with the NDP performance. I tell members, if they want to see a credibility gap, they should just examine that record, where they can find it.

Mr. Bregar: Boy, the arrogance has really settled in.

Hon. Mr. Conway: No, it is not a matter of arrogance; it is a matter of record.

I want to make plain this government's commitment and agenda. I have to say that in the course of this session, and it has been a long session, my colleagues have been working diligently not just in this chamber but outside of the chamber, to do important things for their constituents.

I look around today and I see my friend the member for St. Catharines-Brock (Mr. Dietsch), who has been out working, trying to make people understand the importance of buying Ontario. I look at my friend the member for High Park-Swansea (Mr. Fleet), who has been working in this chamber to improve regulatory reform. I look at my friend the member for Oxford and I think of the work he has done in the area of county government reform.

I look at my friend the member for Durham-York (Mr. Ballinger) and I think of all he has done in the area of aggregates and conservation authorities. I look at my friend the member for Mississauga West (Mr. Mahoney) and I think of all he has done as a small business advocate, together with his friend the member for Guelph (Mr. Ferraro).

Government members have been active in the Legislature and across the province because, I have to say—

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Say it, Sean, and maybe you will believe it.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I think there is a disappointment in the opposition that this government caucus is as disciplined, dedicated and dutiful as it is. I sometimes think the NDP looks at this caucus, wondering if there is a Jim Walding over here. I can assure my friends in the official opposition that search is in vain. We do not intend to repeat the mistakes of poor Howard Pawley.

I make the point, and I see my friend the member for Wentworth East (Ms. Collins)—I do not want to go on too long—who has worked so hard on so many projects in this Legislature. Nobody has defended the interests of the grape growers more vigorously, perhaps, than our friends from the peninsula. I think of her work in connection with the east end health clinic, for example.

The critics say the government has not been doing much. I just do not agree because the record points to a different conclusion. Let's look at the record. I have heard the critics say that we have not done very much, and the Leader of the Opposition just finished saying, "They do not seem to have any agenda." Apart from all the good works the members to whom I have made

reference have done, let's look at the record of this, the first session of the 34th Parliament. Ninety-four government bills will have received royal assent. They are in many respects very significant bills, and I want to simply repeat the list in some respects:

Legislation enacting some of the most important and significant conflict-of-interest legislation to be found anywhere in North America; important legislation to reform the municipal electoral process; legislation to establish the French-language school board; legislation to create the heritage fund; legislation to establish the home ownership savings plan; legislation to reform our trucking policy; important budget bills; important bills to assist farmers; intervenor funding; the Planning Act amendments, very important in terms of housing policy; amendments to the Water Transfer Control Act; important municipal bills; and of course, legislation to more efficiently and more enforceably regulate retail store hours in Ontario.

Those are the bills that will have received royal assent. There are important matters that are still before the committees, legislation that has received second reading: legislation in that connection affecting such key areas of public policy as workers' compensation reform; the health facilities legislation; the aggregates act; smoking in the workplace; and yes, I say to my friend the member for Mississauga South (Mrs. Marland), legislation to allow the Treasurer of Ontario to dedicate lottery revenues to hospitals.

The opposition talked about our inadequacies in terms of health care funding, but it voted against Bill 119 on second reading.

Mr. Brandt: Because the bill does not provide a dollar for hospitals. All it does is give you the right to spend it in whatever way you want. Do not mislead the public.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I am not misleading the public. I think this is a record that speaks for itself. It is a record of achievement, a record of commitment, a record that indicates this government has not lost its drive. It is a government that has an agenda in the important areas, I repeat, of health care, education, housing and assistance to those in need.

I want to say to my friends the detracting oppositionists in this chamber that there is more to be done, and we are going to be back to do that, I want to tell them.

I want to use a rural analogy. The late, great Sam Rayburn once said, "Any jackass can kick a barn door down, but it takes a carpenter to build something." I am with Sam Rayburn and I want

to continue with my colleagues in the government caucus to build for a better Ontario, to build for a better tomorrow for all those people my friend the Leader of the Opposition talked about.

I want to say in conclusion—

1800

Some hon. members: More, more.

Hon. Mr. Conway: No, Mr. Speaker.

The principal reason this government has been able to accomplish so much in the first session of this Legislature, and I repeat some of it in the face of unprecedented obstructionism—when I think of what my friends the Solicitor General and the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Kanter) had to put up with in the passage of that legislation relating to retail store hours, and when I think of what the Treasurer faced here on April 20, 1988, I think I have, objectively, evidence of some of the most noteworthy obstructionism this Legislature has ever seen.

Mr. Brandt: Gee, the opposition opposed.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Oh, listen, I repeat that I have done my share of active politics in the opposition, but I do not think I ever denied a Treasurer the right to read a budget. I do not think I ever did that.

I want to say that the principal reason this government has been able to accomplish as much as it has over the last 16 to 18 months, notwithstanding the good work by all these wonderful people, is the continuing leadership provided by the Premier of Ontario, the leader of the Ontario Liberal Party.

When I travel home, the people of the Ottawa Valley tell me that they continue to find David Peterson the most attractive and the most resolute leader to be found in Canada today. When we see the kind of national tension that attaches to the current round of the constitutional debate, we in this government and on this side are very proud of the role that the Premier of Ontario has played in the current debate over the constitutional renewal. That is a good example of leadership by example, and this Premier continues to show the way in that important connection.

The other night in this city, this leader, this Premier, stood before a large group and reminded the people of Ontario of the importance of tolerance and generosity of spirit at this critical time in our community life. I think, again, that speaks loudly to the quality of leadership David Peterson continues to provide to this assembly, this government and this province, and of that we are enormously proud on this side and over there.

I want there to be no doubt, I want there to be no confusion over there or around the province. We in this government wind up this debate and this session with a genuine sense of pride in the government caucus, in the cabinet, in our distinguished Treasurer, now departed again to the national capital, and most especially in our Premier, because we believe that when you compare our record in the areas of policy development, in fiscal management and in a whole host of other initiatives, it is quite clear that we are doing the things we said we would do, and we are quite prepared to continue meeting the responsibilities the people of Ontario gave us on September 10, 1987, to make Ontario a better place in which to live.

I conclude by saying that I cannot imagine there is anyone who, in his heart, would really want to vote against the budgetary policy being advanced on behalf of the government by our distinguished colleague and member for Brant-Haldimand. I invite all honourable members to show where they stand as the questions are now to be put.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. It now being shortly after six of the clock, on Monday, April 25, 1988, Mr. R. F. Nixon moved, seconded by Mr Conway, "That this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government."

On Tuesday, April 26, 1988, Mr. Laughren moved that the motion "That this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government" be amended by deleting the words following "that" and adding thereto the following:

"This House, recognizing that the 1988 budget fails to adopt tax fairness as its overriding objective and fails to adequately direct its programs to those areas most in need, condemns the government for:

"Increasing the most regressive of taxes, the retail sales tax;

"Increasing the personal income tax in such a way that middle-income earners bear the brunt of the increases while wealthier Ontarians receive the benefits;

"Failing to introduce a minimum corporate income tax to ensure that corporations pay their fair share;

"Worsening the situation for senior citizens in Ontario by failing to provide any relief from the retail sales tax increase;

"Failing to eliminate the Ontario personal income tax for those living at or below the poverty line;

"Failing to guarantee accessibility to the health care system by eliminating the Ontario health insurance plan tax for all those living below the poverty line;

"Refusing to make home ownership a real possibility for first-time home buyers by its failure to introduce a real estate speculation tax;

"Failing to treat the people of northern Ontario fairly and failing to provide for adequate funding for the development of the north;

"Exorbitant tax increases in every major tax paid by individuals and families in Ontario while increasing the tax breaks going to corporations;

"Failing to stem the ever-increasing share of the health care budget which is going to the fat cats of the health care system—doctors, laboratories and drug companies—while failing to increase funding for community and public health care; and

"Failing to devote more of the budget to the provision of adequate and affordable housing.

"Therefore, this government lacks the confidence of this House."

On Tuesday, April 26, 1988, Mr. Harris moved that the amendment to the motion be amended by adding after the words "affordable housing" and before the words "Therefore, this government lacks the confidence of this House," the following:

"This House, noting that six years of sustained economic growth in the province has significantly increased government revenues and has generated substantial in-year revenue windfalls, rejects as unnecessary and unjustified the massive, inflationary and regressive tax increases proposed by the government.

"This House regrets that the government of Ontario, by increasing its personal income tax, its retail sales tax, its gasoline tax and other consumption taxes, will deprive the Ontario taxpayer of the full benefits of federal tax reform and has significantly increased the tax burden on the middle class.

"This House deplores the fact that, after a six-year period in which real economic growth in the province has averaged 5.5 per cent, the government has not been able to achieve a more substantial reduction in its budgetary deficit and continues to add to the province's debt, two factors which will limit the ability of the province to respond to any economic downturn in a flexible and fiscally responsible manner.

1810

"This House condemns the government for its inability to control its expenditures and particu-

larly for its lack of action to control the costs of the province's health care system.

"This House, noting that this government has increased expenditures by 42.8 per cent since taking office, believes that the failure of the government to effectively address the problems in housing, health care, post-secondary institutions and the education system is due to inadequate and ineffective management of its expenditures and expresses its dissatisfaction with the government's intention of making the taxpayer pay for its own management deficiencies."

1818

The House divided on Mr. Harris's amendment to the amendment to the motion, which was negated on the following vote:

Ayes

Brandt, Breough, Bryden, Charlton, Cooke, D. S., Cousens, Cureatz, Eves, Farnan, Grier, Harris, Johnson, J. M., Johnston, R. F., Kormos, Laughren, Mackenzie, Marland, Martel, McLean, Philip, E., Pollock, Rae, B., Reville, Sterling, Villeneuve.

Nays

Adams, Ballinger, Beer, Bossy, Callahan, Campbell, Carrothers, Collins, Conway, Cooke, D. R., Cordiano, Dietsch, Eakins, Elliot, Elston, Epp, Faubert, Fawcett, Fleet, Fulton, Furlong, Henderson, Kanter, Kerrio, Kozyra, Kwinter, LeBourdais;

Lipsett, Lupusella, Mahoney, Matrondola, McGuigan, Miller, Neumann, Nicholas, Nixon, J. B., Oddie Munro, Offer, O'Neil, H., Owen, Pelissero, Phillips, G., Poole, Ray, M. C., Reyecraft, Riddell, Roberts, Ruprecht, Smith, D. W., Smith, E. J., Sola, Sorbara, Stoner, Sweeney, Tatham, Ward, Wrye.

Ayes 25; nays 57.

The House divided on Mr. Laughren's amendment to the motion, which was negated on the same vote.

The House divided on Hon. R. F. Nixon's main motion, which was agreed to on the same vote reversed.

SUPPLY ACT

The following bill was given first, second and third readings on motion by Hon. Mr. Conway on behalf of Hon. R. F. Nixon.

Bill 223, An Act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the Public Service for

the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1989.

LEGISLATIVE PAGES

Hon. Mr. Conway: The Lieutenant Governor awaits, but before I go to ask His Honour to join us, I would like, on behalf of all members here assembled, to thank this group of pages who have served us so well over the last number of days.

I know that all members would want to join me in thanking them very specially for their wonderful work, and we wish them well in their future endeavours. I must say I am sure they will be as disappointed to leave this place today as we will be.

His Honour the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario entered the chamber of the Legislative Assembly and took his seat upon the throne.

ROYAL ASSENT

Hon. Mr. Alexander: Pray be seated.

Mr. Speaker: May it please Your Honour, the Legislative Assembly of the province has, at its present sitting thereof, passed certain bills to which, in the name of and on behalf of the said Legislative Assembly, I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

Clerk Assistant: The following are the titles of the bills to which Your Honour's assent is prayed:

Bill 122, An Act to amend the Retail Sales Tax Act;

Bill 151, An Act to revise the Personal Property Security Act and to repeal and amend certain other Acts related to Personal Property;

Bill 152, An Act to revise and consolidate the Law related to Repairers' and Storer's Liens;

Bill 175, An Act respecting transfers of Water;

Bill 212, An Act to amend the Legislative Assembly Act;

Bill 213, An Act to amend the Executive Council Act;

Bill Pr78, An Act respecting the County of Lanark.

Clerk of the House: In Her Majesty's name, His Honour the Lieutenant Governor doth assent to these bills.

Mr. Speaker: May it please Your Honour, we, Her Majesty's most dutiful and faithful subjects of the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario in session assembled, approach Your Honour with sentiments of unfeigned devotion and loyalty to Her Majesty's person and government, and humbly beg to

present for Your Honour's acceptance, a bill entitled An Act granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the Public Service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1989.

Clerk of the House: His Honour the Lieutenant Governor doth thank Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, accept their benevolence and assent to this bill in Her Majesty's name.

1830

His Honour the Lieutenant Governor was pleased to deliver the following gracious speech.

PROROGATION SPEECH

Hon. Mr. Alexander: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly: The first session of the 34th Parliament has been a productive one both for members of the Legislature and the people of Ontario. During this session, 94 bills received royal assent. In the coming weeks, nine government bills will receive careful examination by standing committees of the Legislature.

A number of measures were undertaken to preserve and protect our environment, including the introduction of legislation to phase out the use of substances harmful to the ozone layer, and the Countdown Acid Rain program. More protection for workers was provided through initiatives such as right-to-know legislation. Amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety Act will give workers tough new powers to refuse unsafe or dangerous work. Proposed reform of the Workers' Compensation Act will give injured workers greater opportunity to return to work through expanded vocational rehabilitation programs and employer rehiring obligations.

Changes to the Retail Business Holidays Act will provide for fair, enforceable and flexible regulation of retail store hours. Employees will have the right to refuse unreasonable work on a Sunday through amendments to the Employment Standards Act. New initiatives to encourage community-based health care delivery and the promotion of healthy lifestyles included the creation of a \$100-million health innovation fund, a special educational campaign aimed at preventing the spread of AIDS, and specific program responses to the recommendations contained in the Ken Black report on illegal drug use in Ontario.

Initiatives were undertaken to promote excellence in education and training. Such measures included major new funding to reduce class sizes in grades 1 and 2 and the purchase of new computer technology, textbooks and learning materials.

In the midst of difficult and challenging market conditions, my government took steps to increase the supply of housing. Measures announced in the budget included the allocation of \$2 billion for the construction of 30,000 non-profit homes. Amendments to the Planning Act will streamline the approval process to help create more affordable housing. The Ontario home ownership savings plan was established.

Increased protection was provided to consumers through such measures as an enhanced Ontario New Home Warranty Program. Municipal elections reform was undertaken with the passage of significant legislation. Conflict-of-interest legislation will ensure greater accountability of members of the Legislature to the people they serve.

The Premier's Council on technology prescribed a series of recommendations to develop Ontario as a world leader in innovation, technology and trade. Consistent with these recommendations, seven centres of excellence and six centres of entrepreneurship were established and new tax incentives to support increased investment in research and development were introduced. As part of my government's commitment to develop a skilled, literate work force, \$50 million has been allocated to annual literacy programming, primarily at the community level.

In the face of competitive pressures, greater protection was provided to members of the farming community through right-to-farm legislation and the passage of the Farm Implements Act. The establishment of a \$360-million northern Ontario heritage fund will strengthen and diversify the economy of northern Ontario.

With the ratification of the Canada-United States free trade agreement, the government took action to protect the interests of Ontarians in the area of provincial responsibility. The Independent Health Facilities Act will give preference to nonprofit Canadian firms proposing to open community-based health facilities. The Wine Content Act and the Water Transfer Control Act were proclaimed. Proposed amendments to the Power Corporation Act will assert Ontario's authority over our electricity.

Additional legislative changes to the Power Corporation Act will make Ontario Hydro more responsive to government policies and public priorities. Conservation and cogeneration will become mandated priorities for the public utility. The proclamation of the Intervenor Funding Project Act has given members of the public greater accessibility to government tribunals.

This assembly received reports from select committees on education and energy. The Legislature unanimously adopted the report of the select committee on constitutional reform, recommending ratification of the Meech Lake accord.

For these and many other achievements, all members of this assembly deserve congratulations.

Au nom de notre souveraine, je vous remercie.
Je déclare cette session prorogée.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker and honourable members of the Legislative Assembly, it is the will and pleasure of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor that this Legislative Assembly be prorogued and therefore this Legislative Assembly is accordingly prorogued.

His Honour the Lieutenant Governor was pleased to retire from the chamber.

The House prorogued at 6:36 p.m.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ORDERS AND NOTICES

TRANSIT SERVICES

438. Mr. Jackson: Would the Minister of Transportation provide the maximum capacity of each type of railway car used by GO Transit, specifically stating for each car: (a) the number of seats, (b) the maximum safe standing capacity and the source of that figure, (c) the maximum legal standing capacity if legal limits exist, and (d) the route(s) on which this type of car is used? [Tabled February 13, 1989]

Hon. Mr. Fulton: GO Transit uses two types of rail cars in its service: single-levels manufactured by Hawker Siddeley Canada Inc. and bilevels made by the UTDC Inc. Number of seats: single-level, 94 per car; bilevel, 162.

Capacity including standees: comfort maximum is 160 in a single-level, 275 in the bilevel; crush load is 200 for the single-level and 438 for the bilevel. Both types of cars were designed to GO Transit's specifications. They were structurally designed and tested to accommodate these crush loads, and their safety and ride quality were accordingly also designed for these levels.

Bilevels now operate on all GO train routes except for two trainsets on the Milton line (serving Milton-Mississauga-Toronto).

Forty of GO's current order for 63 new bilevels are now in service, and a further order for 60 more bilevels has begun production, with delivery starting the end of May 1989.

RESPONSES TO PETITIONS

CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY

Sessional paper P-33, re Church of Scientology.

The abovenoted petition requests that the outstanding charges against the Church of Scientology of Toronto be withdrawn.

The preamble to the petition contains several errors, which should be noted:

1. "An entire church" is not charged with a criminal offence. The accused is the corporation Church of Scientology of Toronto;

2. The alleged offences did not occur over a decade ago. The charges of possession of stolen property span a time period ending March 3, 1983.

As I have noted in responding to other correspondence pertaining to this case, the Court of Appeal for Ontario has held that those who commit secular crimes are not immune from

prosecution merely because the crimes are committed to further the objects of a religious organization. This principle is equally applicable to individuals and corporations.

Any further comment regarding the Scientology case would not be advisable as the case is presently before the courts and is subject to a ban on publication of the evidence.

ANIMALS FOR RESEARCH

Sessional paper P-35, re animals in product testing.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: The statements heading this petition are not correct.

The wording of this petition implies that cosmetic and household product testing in Ontario causes death, suffering and pain in many animals. Little testing of these products is conducted here. Less than 300 rabbits a year are part of eye irritancy tests. The use of the LD-50 test for testing makeup is reported to be nil. All research and animal testing facilities are inspected by ministry veterinarians to assure there is no unnecessary pain. These are unannounced inspections made under the Animals for Research Act.

Federal government regulations require manufacturers of consumer products to ensure that any items they sell are safe if used as directed. Tests may also be required by federal authorities to classify materials for the new workplace hazardous materials information system legislation. Some of these tests require animals. For example, the municipal-industrial strategy for abatement program of the Ministry of the Environment requires the use of fish.

The modern modified tests require fewer animals, reduce discomfort, cause less mortality and may provide more information. The tests provide information to protect people.

Some alternative nonanimal tests such as the chorioallantoic membrane test have been developed. They are being used for some applications such as screening. Nonanimal tests will undoubtedly be improved by research and new tests developed until their reliability can be accepted by federal authorities and the courts. Nonanimal tests have not reached the point where they can replace animals.

The government does not believe that we should ban tests while they are still required to ensure the safety of public consumers, workers and the environment. A ban here would only

force the performance of tests into other provinces which do not have veterinary inspectors monitoring them.

YORK REGION LAND DEVELOPMENT

Sessional paper P-41, re land development.

Hon. Mr. Eakins: This government is committed to a municipal planning process that is effectively and fairly used to manage growth and development.

The pressures for growth in York region are expected to continue. This government has recently requested regional council to place a priority on the preparation and adoption of a long-range official plan to guide growth in the region. This government is also conducting a management review of land-use planning, development and servicing in Richmond Hill. The results will be used to improve the administration of planning and development in York region and across the province.

In addition, an OPP investigation is currently being conducted in Richmond Hill and Markham in response to the allegations relating to land dealings. It is appropriate to await the results of the investigation before making a final decision on the necessity for a public inquiry.

TRANSIT SERVICES

Sessional paper P-43, re GO Transit.

Hon. Mr. Fulton: Parking lots at Ajax and Whitby were sized to meet the anticipated parking demand for a period of two to three years after the GO train service expansion from Pickering to Whitby. The overnight success has required GO Transit to take immediate steps to increase this capacity. In the case of Whitby, 150 parking spaces have been leased from the Iroquois Park recreational facility. Designs are under way for the expansion of the parking by some 450 spaces with construction to occur this summer. At Ajax, designs are under way for an expansion of some 200 spaces to be built this summer.

The first westbound Lakeshore GO train is presently a four-car bilevel but will shortly be increased to five as new bilevels are received from the builder. Trains are sized to best meet the peak passenger demands that are encountered throughout the peak hours of service. The train in question currently has about 10 per cent of its passengers standing. There are other trains in the peak hour that have 25 per cent to 35 per cent standing conditions.

The problem of ambulatory disabled is a system-wide concern which must be addressed

on a system-wide basis. GO Transit is presently determining what changes can be made to station facilities to permit them to be used with less difficulty by frail and ambulatory disabled people. As part of this review, the feasibility of installing escalators, elevators and/or ramps will be addressed. In recognition of the possibility that future GO station design standards could incorporate these features, the Pickering, Ajax and Whitby stations were specifically designed to accommodate these options at a future date.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Sessional paper P-45, re environment.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The Ontario government, through the Ministry of the Environment, has several major initiatives under way which are designed to inform and educate the public on environmental issues.

A public information centre was opened at the ministry's office in Toronto in October 1987. This storefront facility acts as a central point for inquiries (in English and French) respecting ministry programs and environmental issues.

The centre distributes approximately 500,000 copies of ministry publications per annum; produces and distributes a bilingual ministry general publications catalogue listing approximately 150 publications available on environmental protection issues; maintains a mailing list of over 7,000 names including school boards, libraries, community and special interest groups, consultants and municipal offices across the province; receives and answers over 60,000 public inquiries per annum; and serves a broad cross-section of the public including teachers, students, public and corporate organizations, and individuals.

The ministry is also planning to increase its educational activities through the development of support material for teachers in consultation with representatives of boards of education, the Ontario Teachers' Federation, l'Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-Ontariens and the Ministry of Education.

The ministry expects to begin its development of these materials in the spring of this year.

Finally, the ministry has compiled a speakers' bureau listing which names 150 individuals from the ministry who are qualified and willing to undertake public speaking engagements on approximately 110 subjects related to the protection of the environment.

It is expected that the speakers' bureau will be in place and available to the public by March of this year.

Under the Ministry of the Environment's Countdown Acid Rain program, which will achieve a 60 per cent province-wide sulphur dioxide reduction from four major sources in the province, Ontario Hydro is required by regulation to reduce its sulphur dioxide emissions from the 1980 level of 370 kilotonnes to 175 kilotonnes per annum by 1994, a 56 per cent reduction.

The requirements of the Countdown Acid Rain program have prompted Ontario Hydro to plan for the construction of eight acid gas scrubbers between now and 1998 at a cost of approximately \$2.5 billion. The scrubbers, which will be the first scrubbers installed on fossil-fuelled generating stations in Canada, will enable Ontario Hydro to attain and maintain the 1994 sulphur dioxide emission limit even as the demands for power increase.

The Ministry of Energy's objectives are to promote energy conservation and efficiency and to work with government and private agencies to develop new energy services and technologies.

Conservation and efficient use of electricity promote the objectives of clean and safe energy by promoting measures that result in more efficient utilization of energy, thereby reducing the need for new energy sources and their environmental impacts. Their programs also seek out sources of electricity such as cogeneration and take full account of the environmental impact of new sources of supply. Conservation and demand management are the highest policy priorities of the Ministry of Energy. Reducing the need for an incremental supply through effective conservation measures can have the greatest effect in avoiding undesirable environmental impacts such as acid rain and CO₂ emissions.

Conservation activities include recent passage of the Energy Efficiency Act, which sets efficiency standards for appliances, the municipal street lighting program to decrease electrical consumption at the municipal level and a variety of programs to promote home efficiency, such as promotion of high-efficiency furnaces and tune-ups of existing furnaces.

With respect to renewable energy, the Ministry of Energy has an active program to promote small hydro development. It also operates a program to burn wood waste at lumber and sawmill sites and another to encourage the production of energy from municipal solid waste. The ministry is active in research to ensure that this energy can be generated without harm to the environment.

In addition, the Ministry of Energy provides financial support to the Solar Energy Society of Canada and the Canadian Wind Energy Association. Over the last few years, it has participated in over 200 solar heating demonstration projects as well as projects for photovoltaic and wind-assisted generation in remote communities.

The Ministry of Energy also supports research into new energy technologies through the EnerSearch program. Environmental criteria are important factors in the allocation of funds through such programs.

With respect to the legislative and enforcement power of the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, the minister, upon taking office in 1985, announced the formation of the investigations and enforcement branch, which was authorized to undertake proactive investigative programs so that violation of the ministry's legislation will not go undetected. The branch works closely with the ministry's regional abatement staff and legal services branch to bring polluters to justice. Its activities include spot checks, long-term surveillance and intensive investigations leading to the initiation of prosecutions.

The number of prosecutions undertaken by the ministry has risen sharply in recent years, and the number of convictions obtained has risen from a total of 71 in the year 1985-86 to 170 for the year 1987-88, the last complete fiscal year.

The ministry's legislation has been amended to increase the level of fines which can be levied for offences against the environment. Corporations can draw fines ranging from \$25,000 to \$500,000, and corporate officials can receive not only substantial fines but also a year's imprisonment, where warranted by the offence.

Major regulatory initiatives are under way to strengthen environmental protection in Ontario. The municipal-industrial strategy for abatement will apply strict controls to the effluents discharged to Ontario's waterways by nine major industrial sectors and by all municipal sewage treatment plants. The clean air program will impose stringent air pollution controls on the province's industrial sector. The ultimate goal of these programs is the virtual elimination of toxic contaminant discharges to the environment. In addition, the ministry's waste management legislation is being reviewed with a view to improving the handling and disposal of residential, commercial and industrial wastes, with an emphasis on the four Rs; i.e., reduction, reuse, recycling and recovery. Furthermore, legislation

has been introduced to allow the government to ban ozone-layer-destroying CFCs.

It is the provincial government's intention to continually review the legislation, and the

resources applied to its implementation, in order to ensure the continued protection and improvement of the environment in Ontario.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

- Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossey, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breaugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitowlin L)
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)
Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health (Oriole L)
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)
Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)
 Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC)
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)
Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)
Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A., Speaker (Perth L)
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)
Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet and Minister of Financial Institutions (Bruce L)
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)
Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)
Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)
 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)
Grandmaitre, Hon. Bernard C., Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)
 Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)
 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)
Hošek, Hon. Chaviva, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)
 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)
 Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L)
Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G., Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L)
 Kormos, Peter (Welland-Thorold NDP)
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)
Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)
 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)
 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)
 Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)
 MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)
 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)
Mancini, Hon. Remo, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)
 Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)
 Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP)
 Matrundola, Gino (Willowdale L)
 McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)
 McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)
 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)
 McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)
 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)
McLeod, Hon. Lyn, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)
 Miclash, Frank (Kenora L)

Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)
 Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)
 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)
Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier and Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics (Brant-Haldimand L)
Oddie Munro, Hon. Lily, Minister of Culture and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)
O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Quinte L)
 O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)
 Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)
Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government Services (Ottawa Centre L)
 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)
Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and President of the Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (London Centre L)
 Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)
Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship (Scarborough-Agincourt L)
 Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Prescott and Russell L)
 Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)
 Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)
 Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)
 Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)
 Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)
 Rae, Bob (York South NDP)
Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional Services (Timiskaming L)
 Ray, Michael C., Deputy Chairman of the Committees of the Whole House (Windsor-Walkerville L)
 Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)
 Reycraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)
Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and Food (Huron L)
 Roberts, Marietta L. D. (Elgin L)
 Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)
 Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)
Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General (St. George-St. David L)
 Smith, David W. (Lambton L)
Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General (London South L)
 Sola, John (Mississauga East L)
Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour (York Centre L)

South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)
 Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)
 Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)
 Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)
Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
 Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)
 Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)
 Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry PC)
Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of Education (Wentworth North L)
 Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)
Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio (Dufferin-Peel L)
 Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)
Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy (Fort York L)
Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and President of the Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs
 Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics
 Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines
 Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment
 Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General
 Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and Food
 Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs
 Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G., Minister of Natural Resources
 O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and Recreation
 Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community and Social Services
 Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet and Minister of Financial Institutions
 Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations
 Grandmaitre, Hon. Bernard C., Minister of Revenue
 Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Development
 Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation
 Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology
 Oddie Munro, Hon. Lily, Minister of Culture and Communications

Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour
 Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health
 Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development
 Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional Services
 Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General
 Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of Education
 Hošek, Hon. Chaviva, Minister of Housing
 McLeod, Hon. Lyn, Minister of Colleges and Universities
 Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government Services
 Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship
 Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy
 Mancini, Hon. Remo, Minister without Portfolio
 Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio

PARLIAMENTARY ASSISTANTS

Ballinger, William G.: assistant to the Minister of Natural Resources (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles: assistant to the Minister of Education (York North L)
 Brown, Michael A.: assistant to the Minister of Mines (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
 Cordiano, Joseph: assistant to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Lawrence L)
 Faubert, Frank: assistant to the Minister of Revenue (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
 Ferraro, Rick E.: assistant to the Minister of Financial Institutions (Guelph L)
 Haggerty, Ray: assistant to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Niagara South L)
 Hart, Christine E. (Ms.): assistant to the Minister of Treasury and Economics (York East L)
 Kanter, Ron: assistant to the Solicitor General (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L)
 Keyes, Kenneth A.: assistant to the Minister of Health (Kingston and The Islands L)
 LeBourdais, Linda (Mrs.): assistant to the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Etobicoke West L)
 Leone, Laureano: assistant to the Minister of Culture and Communications (Downsview L)
 Lupusella, Tony: assistant to the Minister of Government Services (Dovercourt L)
 Mahoney, Steven W.: assistant to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mississauga West L)
 McClelland, Carman: assistant to the Minister of the Environment (Brampton North L)
 McGuigan, James F.: assistant to the Minister of Transportation (Essex-Kent L)

McGuinty, Dalton J.: assistant to the Minister of Skills Development (Ottawa South L)
 Miclash, Frank: assistant to the Minister of Northern Development (Kenora L)
 Miller, Gordon I.: assistant to the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Norfolk L)
 Morin, Gilles E.: assistant to the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Carleton East L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford: assistant to the Minister of Housing (York Mills L)
 Offer, Steven: assistant to the Attorney General (Mississauga North L)
 Polsinelli, Claudio: assistant to the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Yorkview L)
 Ruprecht, Tony: assistant to the Minister of Community and Social Services (Parkdale L)
 Smith, David W.: assistant to the Minister of Correctional Services (Lambton L)
 South, Larry: assistant to the Minister of Energy (Frontenac-Addington L)
 Sullivan, Barbara (Mrs.): assistant to the Minister of Labour (Halton Centre L)
 Velshi, Murad: assistant to the Minister of Citizenship (Don Mills L)

STANDING COMMITTEES

Administration of justice: chairman, Mr. Callahan; vice-chairman, Mr. Chiarelli; members, Messrs. Farnan, Hampton, Kanter, Mahoney, McGuinty, Offer, Polsinelli, Runciman and Sterling; clerk, Deborah Deller.

Finance and economic affairs: chairman, Mr. D. R. Cooke; vice-chairman, Mr. Pelissero; members, Messrs. Cleary, Ferraro, Haggerty, Ms. Hart, Messrs. Kozyra, Mackenzie, McCague, Morin-Strom, and Pope; clerk, Todd Decker.

General government: chairman, Mr. Elliot; vice-chairman, Mr. Faubert; members, Ms. Bryden, Messrs. Callahan, Charlton, Cordiano, Cureatz, Fleet, McLean, Ruprecht and Sola; clerk, Franco Carrozza.

Government agencies: chairman, Mr. McLean; vice-chairman, Mrs. Marland; members, Messrs. Ballinger, Breaugh, Miss Martel, Messrs. Miller, J. B. Nixon, Miss Roberts, Messrs. Runciman, South and Velshi; clerk, Deborah Deller.

Legislative Assembly: chairman, Mr. Epp; vice-chairman, Mr. Campbell; members, Messrs. Breaugh, Hampton, J. M. Johnson, Matrondola, McClelland, Morin, Sterling, Mrs. Stoner and Mrs. Sullivan; clerk, Smirle Forsyth.

Ombudsman: chairman, Miss Nicholas; vice-chairman, Mr. Bossy; members, Messrs. Car-

rothers, Charlton, Cousens, Henderson, Mrs. LeBourdais, Messrs. Lupusella, MacDonald, Philip and Pollock; clerk, Franco Carrozza.

Public accounts: chairman, Mr. Philip; vice-chairman, Mr. Pouliot; members, Messrs. Adams, Ballinger, Ms. Collins, Mr. Cousens, Mrs. Fawcett, Miss Martel, Miss Nicholas, Messrs. J. B. Nixon and Villeneuve; clerk, Douglas Arnott.

Regulations and private bills: chairman, Mr. Furlong; vice-chairman, Mr. Lipsett; members, Messrs. Keyes, Kormos, Leone, McCague, Miclash, Pollock, Reville, Smith, and Sola; clerk, Tannis Manikel.

Resources development: chairman, Mr. Laughren; vice-chairman, Mr. Wildman; members, Messrs. Black, Brown, Dietsch, Mrs. Grier, Mrs. Marland, Mr. McGuigan, Mrs. Stoner, Messrs. Tatham and Wiseman; clerk, Lynn Mellor.

Social development: chairman, Neumann; vice-chairman, Mrs. O'Neill; members, Messrs. Allen, Beer, Carrothers, Mrs. Cunningham, Messrs. Daigeler, Jackson, R. F. Johnston, Owen and Ms. Poole; clerk, Todd Decker.

SELECT COMMITTEE

Education: chairman, Ms. Poole; members, Messrs. Beer, D. S. Cooke, Furlong, Jackson, R. F. Johnston, Keyes, Mahoney, Miclash, Mrs. O'Neill and Mr. Villeneuve; clerk pro tem, Tannis Manikel.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Parliamentary precinct: co-chairmen: Hon. Mr. Edighoffer and Mr. Epp; clerk, Smirle Forsyth.

*The alphabetical list of members appears in each issue. The other lists, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard in the first and last issues of each session and on the first sitting day of each month.

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